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Singh in crisis

Three ministers quit to protest Chautala's reappointment

NEW DELHI, July 13, (Agencies): Three government ministers resigned today catapulting the minority government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh into its deepest crisis since it came to power last year.

Press Trust of India said Commerce Minister Arun Nehru, Energy Minister Arif Mohammed Khan and Junior Tourism Minister Satpal Malik has submitted their resignations to Singh.

The resignations were in protest against the reappointment yesterday of Om Prakash Chautala, the son of Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, as the chief minister of the northern state of Haryana, the news agency said.

Chautala resigned from the post under party pressure on May 22, after election violence in his constituency killed at least a dozen people earlier this year.

According to PTI, the ministers who resigned said they would find it difficult to defend the reappointment of Chautala.

The move to reappoint Chautala as the chief minister, or highest elected official, of Haryana state apparently came about after a cold war between Singh and Devi Lal was ended.

Newspaper reports said the two reached a rapprochement last weekend. Devi Lal had apparently held Singh responsible for Chautala's ouster and was earlier close to announcing a formal break with the prime minister, the reports said.

157 killed in two days of fighting in Sri Lanka — Page 16

UAE cutting output: Otaiba

CAIRO, July 13, (UPI): The United Arab Emirates, whose overproduction led to the current world glut of crude oil and a 30 per cent drop in prices, said today it will start cutting daily output immediately by up to 500,000 barrels.

"The UAE has immediately started bringing its oil production down to the Opec-decreed quota level it has accepted of 1.5 million barrels per day," UAE Oil Minister Mansour Saeed Otaiba told a news conference in the UAE capital of Abu Dhabi.

A report on the news conference by the Middle East New Agency was monitored here.

The UAE has been pumping about 2 million barrels of crude daily, nearly double the 1.1-million-barrel limit assigned by the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Opec unilaterally assigned the quota after the UAE refused any limit at the organisation's semi-annual meeting in November and spurned an offer to raise the daily limit to 1.5 million barrels.

UAE overproduction triggered quota breaking by other Opec members and led to a glut of crude oil and a slide of 30 per cent in world prices this year.

The price drop has been costing Opec members billions of dollars and resulted in organisation leaders such as Saudi Arabia and Iraq bringing political pressure on the Emirates to slow down their pumps.

Opec pumps more than a third of the world's crude oil and attempts to support higher prices by limiting its output.

Otaiba's comments were the first direct confirmation that the UAE would accept the organisation's offer of a 1.5-million-barrel daily limit, comparable to the one agreed to by its Gulf neighbour, Kuwait, at the November conference.

Saudi Arabia's Riyadh radio reported late yesterday the UAE had accepted the 1.5-million-barrel quota.

A US oil trader also told United Press International the UAE had agreed to accept the limit, although he said the organisation consented informally to wink at a daily output of 1.8 million barrels.

Iranian Oil Minister Gholamreza Azoudeh said today the Opec members will be able to restore its benchmark price of \$18 per barrel within days.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to the UAE, he said production cutbacks by the UAE will drive the price up to \$20 per barrel, he said.

At the meeting, Iran will request that the benchmark be increased by \$2, to \$20 a barrel, the minister said.



Benazir in talks with HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad.

Visit satisfactory

Benazir for avoiding war over Kashmir Cranston calls for exerting US, Soviet influence

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

PAKISTAN Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on Thursday said both Kuwait and her country agreed on the need to avoid an armed conflict with India over Kashmir. She also repeated her country's denial of owning a nuclear bomb at a brief press conference before her departure to Morocco.

"Pakistan has no intention of manufacturing nuclear weapons," she said.

Indian and Pakistani foreign secretaries are expected to meet in Islamabad from July 18-20. Benazir said the result of their meeting would be put up before the Islamic foreign ministers "when they take up the issue of Kashmir as requested by Pakistan."

Dow average breaks 3,000 barrier

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): The Dow Jones industrial average shattered the 3,000 level for the first time in history today as the stock market surged on a fresh wave of investor enthusiasm.

The nation's best-known barometer of Wall Street, moved up 31 points.

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Israeli missile

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 13, (AP): Israel will soon launch its first test of the Arrow missile, which has been developed with US strategic defence initiative funds to combat short-range ballistic missiles, the Jerusalem Post reported.

No date was given for the launch, but the Post said it was "imminent."

Officials at Israel Aircraft Industries, which is developing the Arrow along with the American Lockheed Corp., declined comment.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens on Thursday discussed the Arrow with the visiting Gen. Colin L. Powell, the top military officer in the United States.

Powell, who is chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, arrived from Jordan also heard a report on the Middle East strategic situation from Israel's Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Dan Shomron.

Powell is on a five-nation Middle East tour.

"I mentioned the Arrow project to Gen. Powell since he is familiar with it. I understood that he greatly appreciates Israel's technological achievements in this field, which in many respects are indeed unprecedented," Arens said on Israel radio.

THE Central Bank of Kuwait currency rates against the Kuwaiti dinar on July 12, valued for July 16, 1990.

Currency	Buying	Selling
US dollar	290.680	291.830
Deutsche mark	322.350	323.590
Swiss franc	206.200	207.710
French franc	052.230	052.580
Italian lire	0002395	0002409
Japanese yen	0019521	0019652
Bahraini dinar	771.030	774.260
UAE dirham	079.120	079.470
Saudi riyal	077.480	077.830
Qatari riyal	079.820	080.200
Omani riyal	754.810	758.300

Asian currency exchange rates against Kuwaiti dinar.

Currency	KD	GOLD PRICES	KD
Indian Rs (1,000)	16.700	One kg. 999	3,325.000
Pak. Rs	13.400	One kg. 995	3,310.000
Sri Lankan Rs	7.240	22 kt. per gm.	3,500
Singapore dollar	160.50	21 kt. per gm.	3,450
Hong Kong dollar	37.50	18 kt. per gm.	3,400
Bangladesh taka	9.710	10 tola gold	389.000
Philippine peso	12.680	One ounce gold	110.000

Courtesy: Abdulaziz & Ali Al Yousif Al Mazahri Co.

■ Gold in London jumped to a late bid of \$364.55 a troy ounce from \$351.75 bid late Thursday.

■ In Zurich, gold traded at \$364.20 per ounce, up from \$351.60 late Thursday.

■ Gold in Hong Kong rose \$5.56 an ounce on Friday, to close at \$359.94.

■ Silver bullion traded late in London at a bid \$4.93 a troy ounce, up from \$4.86 late Thursday.

■ But selling was muted ahead of the weekend, dealers said.

■ The British pound traded at \$1.8055, up from \$1.7995 late Thursday.

■ Other late dollar rates compared with late Monday:

- 1.6430 West German marks, down from 1.6525
- 1.3925 Swiss francs, down from 1.4020
- 5.5115 French francs, down from 5.5460
- 1.8520 Dutch guilders, down from 1.8625
- 1.2032 Italian lire, down from 1.2110
- 1.1576 Canadian dollars, down from 1.1580.

■ In Tokyo, the dollar fell at 147.42 yen, down 1.48 from Thursday's close. Later in London, the dollar was quoted at 147.50 yen.

Singh and Devi Lal belong to the Janata Dal party, which formed a minority government after last November's general elections.

The party is in a minority in parliament, but is supported by leftist and right-wing parties.

Chautala was sworn in yesterday as chief minister of Haryana at a simple ceremony held in New Delhi.

He was administered oath of secrecy and office by Governor Dhanik Lal Mandal. The oath ceremony was attended by a large number of members of legislative assembly, Members of Parliament and Janata Dal leaders.

(See Page 16)

Blasts in Manila; troops on alert

MANILA, July 13, (AP): Troops and police went on full alert in the capital today after six bombs exploded before dawn in major tourist and financial districts, damaging several cars and buildings but causing no casualties.

Unexploded bombs were found on cars at the Silabis hotel and the Philippine Plaza Hotel, a shopping center in the Makati financial district and on two parked trucks in the Paco district, police said.

Three rifle grenades were also discovered in a plastic bag near the US-sponsored Ramon Magsaysay Foundation along Roxas Boulevard near the nightclub district.

Bombings are not uncommon in this turbulent capital. But Col Victor Tiango, operations chief of the capital command, said today's bombings were unusual because of the extent and nearly simultaneous timing.

A private television station reported it received a telephone call from a man who claimed to be an officer of the underground reform the Armed Forces Movement, saying his group was responsible for the bombing.

Channel 2 reported that a "RAM officer," who was not identified, said the bombings were part of a "test mission" for new recruits. No other details were reported.

The dissident military group spearheaded a coup attempt against President Corason Aquino last December in which at least 113 people were killed and more than 600 others were injured.



Bastille Day

July 14, 1790 was a remarkable day in the history of France — everything changed. It was known to be the 'Marriage of France to France,' symbolising new freedoms for the French. The storming of the famous prison is now celebrated as the Bastille Day. It's a riot of colour in Paris, as this photograph illustrates. Arab Times carries a three-page supplement on France's National Day. **Pages 11-13**

DAY BY DAY

THE General Customs Department responded to Zahed Matar's comments in Arab Times on May 21, 1990, on customs clearance facility at the Kuwait Airport.

Zahed Matar writes: Although the letter came two months after the article was published, we are carrying the letter in the same space, to implement the free press principles.

We also express our pleasure, and willingness, to send our representative to Ibrahim Al Ghanim, director-general of the General Customs Department, in response to his invitation.

Zahed Matar

The following letter was sent by Ibrahim Al Ghanim, director-general of the General Customs Department:

"This refers to an article written by Zahed Matar in the Arab Times (May 21, 1990) in the Day by Day column on the front page. The writer alleged that there is a need for tighter security at special storage division at the Kuwait International Airport. Zahed Matar wrote some importers claimed goods missing after storing in this enclosure.

Please note the following: ■ This is a warehouse, complying with standard storage warehouse facilities at airports, if not the best facility. It is not an ordinary place. Therefore, it complies with all recommendations for using it as a storage facility.

■ All imported goods are stored in the warehouse according to existing customs rules and after receiving official documents (manifestos and B/L). All incoming goods are verified by quantity, weight, size and any other related data as indicated in the documents. However, there are three possibilities:

a) goods received are no more or no less than that indicated in the documents.

b) goods are more than what is established in the manifesto.

(Continued on Page 8)



Party's over

Radice Soviet politician Boris Yeltsin bows his head as announcing he is resigning from the Soviet Communist Party. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Details Page 7)

Beijing silent on ties with Riyadh

BEIJING, July 13, (AP): Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the United States has met with Premier Li Peng on an unusual visit to China, but officials refused to give details on what was discussed.

Prince Bandar Bin Sultan and Li had a friendly conversation on international issues of common concern," the official Xinhua news agency reported. Xinhua did not say when the prince arrived in Beijing, how long he would stay or who else he was meeting.

Islamic group claims explosion at US chemical plant

AMMAN, July 13, (AP): An extremist Islamic group today claimed responsibility for an explosion at a Texas chemical plant, July 5 that killed 17 people. But a company spokeswoman said the cause of the explosion was still unknown.

A spokesman for the Islamic Liberation Front told the Associated Press that the Arco Chemical Co. plant in Channelview, Texas, was attacked because the United States supports Israel despite "its killings and terrorism against our Palestinian families" in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

But Sallie Anderson, a spokeswoman for Arco in Newton, Pennsylvania, where the company is based, said, "we have no indication that the claim has any validity."

Ms Anderson said she couldn't confirm or deny the explosion was the result of sabotage because a cause has not yet been determined. She said Arco had received no warnings from the group.

There was no way to independently verify the Front claim. It had threatened two weeks ago to attack US and Israeli interests world-wide to avenge the May 20 massacre of seven Palestinian labourers in a Tel Aviv suburb by an ex-Israeli soldier.

The Front is a relatively large group based in the West Bank and Gaza. It has followers in Jordan and several other Arab countries. It advocates armed struggle against Israel.

No word on Irish hostage

BEIRUT, July 13, (AP): An Irish envoy waited in vain today for word whether kidnapped Irish teacher Brian Keenan will be the European hostage Iran's official news agency says will likely be freed.

Hopes of a weekend release diminished as Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, a key figure in arranging previous hostage releases, prepared to fly to Cairo tomorrow for a two-day visit.

The summit with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will be the final chapter in a reconciliation between Syria and Egypt that ended a 12-year rift caused by Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel.

Adrian McDaid, First Secretary of the Irish embassy in Baghdad, which also covers Lebanon, flew to Beirut yesterday "to verify that Keenan will be the European hostage released."

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency reported last Sunday that pro-Iranian Shiite Muslim extremists might release a hostage.

In its Beirut dateline report, it did not say who would be freed, but said it would probably be one of the 10 European hostages.

(Continued on Page 2)



Philippine military investigators inspect damage at the Education Ministry building in Manila after a blast wrecked heavy wooden doors and glass panels at dawn on Friday. Six consecutive explosions rocked Manila after Friday morning parking empty cars near tourist hotels and a big shopping mall. (Reuters wirephoto)



Government troops aboard light tanks prepare to leave Manila's Camp Aguinaldo on Friday for deployment in various parts of the Philippine capital. President Corason Aquino placed security forces on full alert after six apparently coordinated bomb explosions rocked Manila's tourist and financial district. (Reuters wirephoto)

Philippines

Captives to be freed

NPA names 2 hostages

BACOLOD, Philippines, July 13, (AP): Communist guerrillas will release a Peace Corps volunteer and a Japanese aid worker at a rebel-controlled area in the central Philippines later this month, a rebel source said Friday.

Timothy Swanson, a Peace Corps worker from the United States, and Fumio Mizuno of Japan are being held hostage by the rebels.

"They will be releasing them within the month, but quietly," the rebel source said. He said the guerrillas will release their captives in a "secured place where they have a strong political mass base and very limited military activity."

The source said the two will be freed in the same way that a radio station owner, held for two months by the rebels, was released.

Rogelio Florete, owner of the Radyo Bombo Network, unobtrusively boarded a passenger jeepney to his office after he was released on a deserted highway outside Bacolod, 336 kilometres (210 miles) south of Manila.

Swanson, a 26-year-old native of Cheyenne, Wyoming, was kidnapped June 13 from his home in the village of Patag north of Bacolod.

The US embassy in Manila discovered the kidnapping on June 30 only after they couldn't contact Swanson to tell him of a US decision to pull out volunteers because of a report that rebels might kidnap or kill them.

Bingo Day 15
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Bill for handicapped approved

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): The Senate gave final congressional approval today to legislation guaranteeing a full range of civil rights for disabled Americans. The measure now goes to President George Bush, who is expected to sign it.

The Senate passed the bill 91-6 a day after the House of Representatives approved it 377-28, culminating two years of legislative efforts.

The measures guarantee the nation's estimated 43 million disabled people access to jobs, transportation, telephone service and stores, restaurants, shopping malls and other public accommodations.

Bush earlier this year urged Congress to speed passage of the bill, which has been called the most significant piece of civil rights legislation since the 1964 act that guaranteed rights for racial minorities.

The vote followed a brief debate that included a speech in sign language by Sen. Tom Harkin, a Democrat, the chief Senate sponsor of the bill.

Harkin paid the silent tribute to his deaf brother. Harkin later explained, "I wanted to say to my brother Frank that today was my proudest day in 16 years in Congress."

Small businesses would have more time than larger ones to make their premises accessible to disabled customers, but no change would be required that would cause a financial hardship to companies.

Transportation requirements, including making all new buses accessible to people with wheelchairs, would occur over years. Amtrak and commuter rail lines will be covered.

The cost to supply relay services for hearing- and speech-impaired telephone users would be spread out among all telephone users, adding little to average phone bills, supporters said.

Hostages

(Continued from Page 1)

McDaid visited Iran's Beirut office day, and met with Iran's resident correspondent, Musayeb Naimih.

"We stressed that our sources are reliable and we explained to McDaid that the hostage to be released will probably be a European national," Naimih told the Associated Press.

"He asked us about the reports that said Keenan will be released and we explained to him that our report did not name the hostage," Naimih added.

Before visiting Iran, McDaid had spent the day at the Irish consulate in Muslim west Beirut, waiting for the kidnappers or other Muslim leaders to contact him. But consulate sources said no one did.

"I'll meet with anybody who feels he has something solid that might lead to a happy resolution," he told the AP. "We're keeping our fingers crossed."

Sources close to the headquarters of the Syrian Army in Lebanon said there were no indications that the release of any of the 16 Western captives was imminent.

One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Brig. Gen. Ghazi Keenan, commander of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, was in Syria, which "indicates that nothing major is cooking" for the time being.

Keenan has always been in Beirut for previous releases, when hostages are usually handed over to Syrian intelligence and driven to Damascus to be repatriated.

Sources close to Syrian Army command in Beirut have speculated that Keenan will be freed.

A radical Palestinian faction will release two of the four Belgian hostages it is holding in exchange for the freedom of a Palestinian jailed on terrorism charges in Belgium, a newspaper reported today.

Al Liwa, a conservative Muslim-run newspaper, quoted Western diplomatic sources as saying the Belgian government had struck a deal with the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal to secure the release of Belgian hostages.

The diplomats said the FRC agreed to free two Belgian hostages held since November 1987 in return for the release of Saeed Nasser, an FRC activist held in a Belgian prison after being convicted in a 1980 grenade attack.

The FRC is believed to be holding Belgians Emmanuel Houckens, 44, his wife, Godolieve Kets, 50, and their two children, Laurent, 19, and Valerie, 18.

The sources said Belgian King Baudouin will issue a royal pardon for Nasser within the next few days on the occasion of Belgian National Day.

In return, the Abu Nidal group will set free two of the Belgian hostages on July 21, the newspaper said, adding that all preparations have been taken by both sides to finalise the deal.

'Interactive news' experiment

Viewers who grumble that the only news on TV is bad news soon will be able to choose some of the stories they want to see on Cable News Network in Atlanta, Georgia.

CNN announced Thursday the first experiment in "interactive news" by a national network, a programme similar to ones by smaller stations where viewers vote on whether to see "Godzilla" or "Planet of the Apes" as the late-night movie.

The experiment begins July 23 on CNN's "news-night," an hour-long newscast at midnight. The choices will involve secondary news or features. (AP)

US lawmakers target tax-dodging

Not since Congress declared war on drugs have lawmakers found such a tempting target. Democrats and Republicans now are raising fire on a common target: tax-dodging foreign corporations.

"What we have here is the granddaddy of tax avoidance," Rep. Byron L. Dorgan said.

Lawmakers see big bucks at stake — money that could be used to cut the budget deficit without imposing on individuals. Some members of Congress insist the government is being cheated of as much as \$50 billion a year, although Bush administration officials are sceptical. (AP)

US scraps chemical weapons tests

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney has cancelled plans to test chemical weapons as a result of the recent US-Soviet agreement to destroy the deadly armaments, according to a Defence Department spokesman.

"All of these decisions are in keeping with our intent to get ready for the bilateral destruction agreement with the Soviet Union," spokesman Pete Williams said Thursday.

The agreement, signed June 1 by US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, must still be ratified by the legislatures of the two countries, expected next year. (AP)

Sweden extradite Soviet youth

The Swedish government on Thursday ordered the extradition of 17-year-old Dmitry Semionov to the Soviet Union for trial on air piracy charges.

"It's a signal to would-be hijackers," said acting Prime Minister Lena Hjelm-Walén.

"The government considered the boy's age and possible extenuating circumstances. But since the crime is very serious, we decided that we can make no exceptions."

Debt-for-nature swap

A conservation group has agreed to pay off \$5 million of Madagascar's foreign debt in exchange for the government's promise to help save the country's unique and endangered lemurs and their forest habitat.

Under terms of the so-called debt-for-nature swap, the government will begin a five-year plan to protect undeveloped areas and to establish a conservation programme staffed by its own people, said Roderic Mast of Conservation International in Washington D.C.

In return, Conservation International will pay off \$5 million, or 5 per cent of Madagascar's debt to commercial banks. (AP)

Soviet Jews get asylum

Hundreds of Soviet Jews seeking asylum in East Germany can remain in the country, the East German government decided Wednesday.

The decision ends weeks of uncertainty for nearly 400 Soviet Jews who have settled in East Germany since April.

East German authorities decided to grant the Soviet Jews residency although they entered East Germany with tourist visas rather than the required residency permits. (AP)

Bulgaria's ethnic Turks snubbed

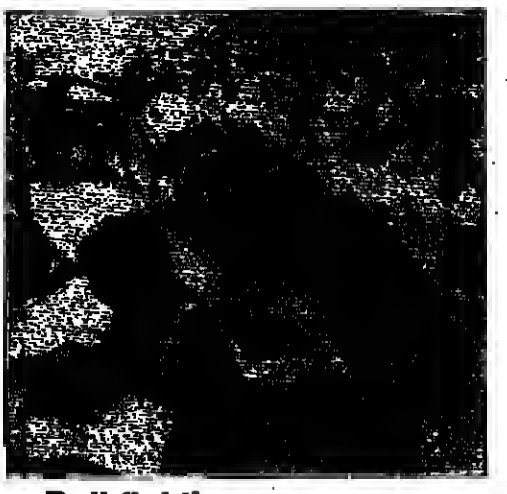
Leaders of Bulgaria's large ethnic Turkish population said on Wednesday they were snubbed during the opening of the country's first-free election parliament in four decades.

The leaders of the Movement of Rights and Freedoms (MRF), a party which represents the 1.5 million-strong minority, were not invited to address Tuesday's ceremonial opening of parliament — despite the fact that they won the third largest number of seats in last month's elections.

Vatican denies Pope is ailing

The Vatican Friday formally denied press reports that Pope John Paul II, currently vacationing in the Italian Alps, is in poor health.

"It is absurd and without foundation what some newspapers have written about the Pope's health. On the contrary he is enjoying excellent health but has need of a rest, as has everybody after a year of work," deputy Vatican spokesman Monsignor Pietro Penacchini said in reply to reporters' questions. (UPI)



Bull-fighting

All runners try to open the way for the six fighting bulls from the Sepulveda ranch Friday on the next to last run of the 1990 San Fermin's in Pamplona, Spain. Friday's run was the fastest of this year's events causing a few bruises and bumps on the daring runners. No one was seriously injured. (Reuters wirephoto)



Mandela's wave

Nelson and Winnie Mandela wave as Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi (right) looks on during a rally Friday in Nairobi. The rally drew smaller than expected crowds in the wake of recent anti-government riots in which 20 people have died. (Reuters wirephoto)

See also Page 7

Senate approves

Anti-crime bill

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): The Senate on Wednesday approved a major anti-crime bill that would ban the import or manufacture of nine kinds of semiautomatic assault weapons.

The bill also would require capital punishment for federal offenses ranging from assassination to treason.

"The scourge of the crime epidemic is strangling the life of our nation — the American people demand action," Senator Strom Thurmond declared as the Senate approved the measure, 94-6.

Judiciary committee chairman Joseph R. Biden Jr. said the measure could cost up to \$2 billion in 1991. He said the source of the money was uncertain.

The bill now goes to the House of Representatives, where a differing crime package already is on the drawing board.

Newspapers have written about the Pope's health. On the contrary he is enjoying excellent health but has need of a rest, as has everybody after a year of work," deputy Vatican spokesman Monsignor Pietro Penacchini said in reply to reporters' questions. (UPI)

Doctor bids to reduce Aids

Among street prostitutes

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): The streetwalker's hollow eyes gave her away. She needed a fix. Behind her on the empty street, a van approached and she glanced over. Maybe she could turn a quick trick.

The driver of the white Dodge had a different idea. He wanted to test her blood for Aids and ask a few questions, and he offered a bag of condoms and 10 dollars — three times the amount she might make for a sexual favour.

But more, he offered to open a rare line of communication with a world ravaged by Aids.

"I really need your help," said Vanessa, 37, as she stepped into the van. She nestled into the comfortable back seat and stretched out her thin arm.

The inch-long track marks along its length told her tale. They also indicated a more than one-in-two chance she was infected with HIV, the Aids virus.

Vanessa is one of 1,600 female prostitutes whom a New York doctor, Joyce Wallace, has tested and counselled about Aids. Ms Wallace's van and a crew of six roam New York's red-light districts.

She has found that in the nation's largest city, a third of all prostitutes are infected with Aids. Equally important, she found most were infected by dirty needles or drug-using

boyfriends — not by their clients.

And in a separate study, she found scant evidence that prostitutes are passing the virus to clients.

A national study by the US Centres for Disease Control reached similar conclusions. The incidence of Aids infection among prostitutes ranged from zero in southern Nevada, in the western US, to almost 50 per cent in northern New Jersey state west of New York City.

In the back of Ms Wallace's van, driver John Reid gently asked Vanessa about her sex and drug habits while Karen Heagarty took a blood sample. They listened to her story.

"It's like fighting a war down here," said Vanessa, dressed in a tight skirt and white halter blouse. "Before I end up dead, I want get out of this."

Ms Wallace has heard this tale many times over the past eight years. In 1982, with a boyfriend in tow for protection, she began combing the 11th Avenue "stroll" in the city to test street women and question them about their sex and drug practices.

In 1988, Ansell Inc., which manufactures Lifestyle condoms, donated a \$15,000 van. Last year, with a \$140,000 grant from the CDC and the State Department of Health, Ms Wallace and her staff began cruising areas

prostitutes were known to frequent.

The van is ready for war. Armed with boxes of condoms, needles and pamphlets of safe sex, Ms Wallace's team does battle three times a week.

Besides the \$10 and a clear plastic bag of condoms prostitutes are given, they get an additional \$20 if they stop by Ms Wallace's Greenwich Village office to pick up their test results.

"These are throwaway women," Ms Wallace said. "Their contact with the establishment is only occasional. It's a judge, a police officer who wants to move them off a street corner, a school that failed them."

Data from this year has not yet been tabulated. But from the 950 women tested last year, Ms Wallace drew a startling profile.

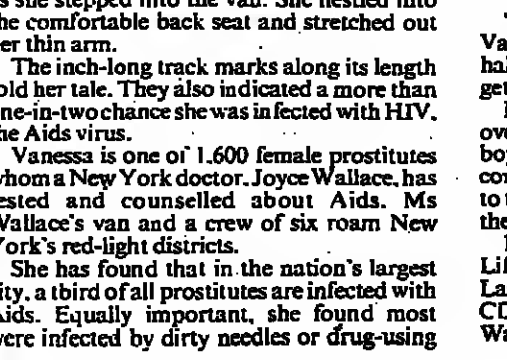
- Homeless: 45 per cent.
 - Drug users: all but 48.
 - Mothers: 88 per cent. The children of 90 per cent lived in foster care or with relatives.
 - High school dropouts: 50 per cent.
 - Black: 49 per cent.
 - Hispanic: 27 per cent.
 - HIV infected: 33 per cent.
- The high incidence of poverty and drug addiction brings added risk of Aids infection for both the woman and her client, former prostitutes said.

Woman gives birth to fifteenth child

KRONSGAARD, West Germany, July 13, (UPI): A 40-year-old mother was released from hospital today after giving birth to a healthy baby girl — her fifteenth child.

Renate Koepf, a mother of six boys and now of nine girls lives in northern West Germany with her husband of 22 years.

Eleven of the children are still living at home, helping out on the family farm. State officials said the Koepf family might have the most children in that northern state.



ORU VADAKKAN **VEERAGADHA**

Aging doesn't affect ability to remember: study

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Old age is no excuse if grandpa forgets to take his pill at mealtime or buy bread on the way home from golf, according to a study that surprised researchers.

In two laboratory experiments, elderly participants did just as well as college students in remembering to do an assigned task.

That was unexpected because some other kinds of memory decline with age, and "some of the prominent theories in the area suggest that this kind of memory ought to be especially difficult for the elderly," said study co-author Gilles Einstein.

Einstein, a psychology professor at Furman University and Mark McDaniel of Purdue University report the federally funded research in the July issue of the journal of experimental psychology. Learning, Memory and Cognition.

One expert on memory who had predicted elderly people would do worse in such experiments said the results surprised him.

The study was well done, but "I'm not convinced that it's the whole and final truth," said psychology professor Fergus Craik of the University of Toronto. Maybe age differences

appear under some conditions but not others, he suggested.

Einstein agreed, noting that a recent unpublished experiment found an age difference in a more difficult memory test. But the published work still suggests no age-related decline in relatively simple cases of remembering to do a task at the right time, he said.

That ability is called "prospective" memory, and it is key to such tasks as taking medication at mealtimes or sending a birthday card. "You've got to remember on your own" without reminders, Einstein said.

Prospective memory "accounts for

some of the most embarrassing failures that we have, forgetting meetings and things like that," Einstein said.

Yet scientists have done little research into it, and studies of whether it declines with age have yielded no clear answer, he said. Prospective memory is important for older adults who must remember to take medications and show up for medical appointments, he and McDaniel wrote.

One of their experiments involved 24 people ages 65 to 75, and 24 college students ages 17 to 24. Participants sat in front of a computer in what they thought was an experiment in improv-

ing short-term memory.

They were told that they would see a list of words on the computer screen, and that immediately afterward they would be asked to recall the words they saw. This would be done 42 times with different lists, they were told.

In addition, if they saw the word "rake" they were supposed to press a particular key on the computer keyboard. Half the participants in each age group were allowed to choose an aid to remember this, such as writing the cue word on a piece of paper.

Participants were kept busy on unrelated tests for 15 minutes to

encourage them to forget about the word "rake." Finally, the world-list exercise began without any reminder about reacting to that word, which appeared three times in the course of the exercise.

Results showed that for participants with no memory aid, the young and the old groups remembered to push the key equally often, 47 per cent of the time "rake" appeared.

Performance was better for those using a memory aid, but age still had no effect. Nor did any age effect appear in a second experiment with 48 different participants.

Roommate could not recognise jogger

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): A former roommate of the jogger gang-raped and severely beaten in Central Park testified that he didn't recognize the victim when he first saw her lying comatose in the hospital after the attack.

"I looked at her for 111 minutes," said Patrick Garrett, 29. "It was actually difficult to identify her, as well as I know her."

Ring

"Police showed me her ring," Garrett said Wednesday. "I knew it was her ring."

While he was on the stand, prosecutors entered into evidence colour photographs taken four days after the April 29, 1989, attack, showing cuts, bruises, scrapes, and red welts and scratches on almost every part of the woman's body.

Garrett, the prosecution's 28th witness in the trial of three youths, said he met the victim when both joined the Salomon Brothers Investment Banking firm in 1986.

Platonic

For a time they shared a two-bedroom apartment as platonic friends, he said. They took separate apartments in January 1989.

Garrett said he got worried and went to Metropolitan Hospital on April 30 after the woman failed to keep an appointment the night before and didn't return a telephone message, then failed to show up for work or call in.

When he called her, prosecutors say, the woman was lying in a ravine in the park, where she had been gang-raped and beaten by a pack of youths.

Defence lawyers objected to Garrett's testimony and to the showing of the photographs, saying neither added anything new and that the latter could prejudice jurors.

Trial

On trial in Manhattan state supreme court are Raymond Santana and Yusef Salaam, both 16, and Antron McCray, 15. They are charged with attempted murder, rape, sexual abuse, assault, robbery and riot in the attack on the woman and attacks on two male joggers.

The woman, now 29, has returned to work, but suffered brain damage and does not remember the attack, says assistant district attorney Elizabeth Lederer, who won't say whether the woman will testify.

McCray, Santana and Salaam are on trial in an adult court, but if convicted they will be sentenced as juvenile offenders, and face up to 10 years in prison.

Three other youths are to stand trial on the same charges later this year.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Desperate Smoke horse manure

BRISBANE, July 13, (Reuters): As any hardened smoker will admit, when you're desperate for a cigarette you'll try anything. But horse manure?

Australian police said yesterday they grabbed two European tourists on a golf course last week who they suspected of smoking a marijuana joint.

"When they were searched and the cigarette opened, it turned out to be nothing more than horse manure," Sergeant Ray Hodgson of the Cannovale police station in north Queensland said.

Hodgson said the men had nothing else to smoke and had decided to try horse manure.

"What worries me is what the horse might have been eating," he said.

BEVERLY HILLS, California: The entrance of the motion picture academy's new library will be called the Bob Hope Lobby, named for its most generous contributor.

The comedian gave \$1 million, the single largest donation, to the renovation of a building to house the academy's growing archives, said Karl Malkin, president of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

The gift brings the amount raised for the building to \$15 million, about a third of what is needed. Hope's contribution was made in January, but only recently announced.

"He is very happy about building a new library for the academy," Malkin said Saturday. "He felt that

NEW YORK: Scottish adventurer Tom McClean says he has rowed and sailed across the Atlantic Ocean four times, but the voyage he began Tuesday is unique. This time his boat is a bottle.

McClean, 47, came up with the scheme to raise \$800,000 for the National Children's Homes, an organisation that cares for 11,000 orphans in Britain.

"I thought it'd be a good idea to have a message in a bottle," said McClean, an orphan himself from age 2, just before pushing off at 10 a.m. from a West Side pier.

He expects to bob his way to Falmouth, England, in about 28 days.

The 37-foot (11.3-metre) steel bottle has a diesel engine with a top speed of about four knots, a little faster if the sail is up, McClean said. (AP)

ANNAPOLIS, Maryland: A woman whose dog died during a four-hour flight delay has sued two airlines for \$13 million, charging that the animal was left in the cargo hold on a hot summer day.

Mary Elizabeth O'Brien of McLean, Virginia, filed the lawsuit Tuesday against Piedmont Airlines and USAir. The lawsuit claims her purebred chow chow, Maxwell, was left in the cargo area of a Piedmont Airlines plane en route to Washington International Airport during part of a four-hour delay for repairs July 12, 1987.

The high temperature at the airport that day was 94 degrees.

The woman contends she reminded Piedmont employees of the high temperature and asked them repeatedly to be sure the dog had water and sufficient ventilation, the lawsuit said. (AP)

SAINT TROPEZ, France: Michael Collins, the 21-year-old son of best-selling author Larry Collins, suffered a bullet wound in the abdomen early Thursday as he was leaving a Saint Tropez nightclub, police said.

Police said a fight erupted outside the famous Papagayo discotheque between a dozen persons at about 3:00 am as Collins was leaving the establishment, a favourite summer gathering place of the international jet set.

Collins, who was apparently not involved in the fight, was hospitalised and is not in serious condition, according to police. (AP)

PARIS: A lawyer acting on behalf of Marilyn Monroe's relatives and beneficiaries has asked the French Coins and Medals Administration to pay compensation for minting an unauthorised commemorative coin bearing the likeness of the American screen star, aides to the attorney said Wednesday.

California attorney Roger Richmond contends the medal struck in 1985 was distributed for two years before the Monroe estate in June 1987 applied successfully to French authorities to copyright all reproductions of Marilyn's likeness in France.

The Coins and Medals Administration says the coin was minted as part of a series about the history of cinema. (AP)

OSLO, Norway: A skydiver missed his target and landed feet first on an automobile, smashing the windshield but only bruising himself, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

Ragnar Hoen told the Oslo newspaper Vergens Gang he assumes his insurance agent will not question his claim, but the deep footprints on the hood and roof of his car may raise some eyebrows.

Hoen was driving near the airport at Skien, southwest of Oslo, when the skydiver landed feet first on his car's hood, the newspaper said. (AP)

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Nuns escape convent fire

SAN RAFAEL, California, July 13, (UPI): A \$1 million fire roared through the top floors of a landmark 1889 convent at Dominican College, forcing the evacuation of 30 nuns.

The blaze, apparently touched off Thursday by workmen, heavily damaged the top two floors of the four-story convent where the nuns lived and archives were kept but all the occupants fled without injury, firemen said.

The fire, which broke out at 1:09 pm, burned much of the afternoon, a fire department spokesman said.

Hunt for Zodiac fruitless, but Dartman suspect arrested

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): A police dragnet based on astrological research failed to turn up the Zodiac killer and cost the city as much as \$30,000 in overtime for undercover officers sent out as decoy prey.

"Maybe he read in the papers that we were beefing up," chief of detective Joseph Borrelli said Thursday after the all-night hunt.

"I'm happy he didn't shoot anyone. I'm not happy we haven't caught him yet," police Commissioner Lee P. Brown said. Investigators activated "Operation Watchdog" because they feared the gunman would

2 new Rushdie books to be published

LONDON, July 13, (AP): Two new books by Salman Rushdie will soon be published, his first since "The Satanic Verses" brought death threats from Iran, his publisher announced yesterday.

Granta Books, in association with Penguin Books, said it had acquired world English-language rights to Rushdie's novel "Haroun and The Sea of Stories" and "Imaginary Homelands," a collection of essays.

"Haroun and The Sea of Stories," written for Rushdie's adolescent son, "is the story of a storyteller who loses the gift of the gab until the gift is restored by his son," said Bill Buford of Granta Books.

The novel is "as full of stories as 'The Arabian Nights,'" from which the principal character Haroun

takes his name," he said. It will be published in Britain on Sept 27 and in the United States next year.

"Imaginary Homelands," has 72 essays on subjects ranging from nationalism, VS Naipaul and Graham Greene, to Britain's general election and the American short story. It will be published in Britain next spring, Buford said.

Rushdie, a British citizen born into a Muslim family in India, has been in hiding under police protection since Feb 14, 1989 when the late Ayatollah Khomeini said he deserved to die for allegedly blaspheming Islam in "The Satanic Verses."

Rushdie has since published poetry and several essays and reviews.



Septuplets plus twins

Patricia and Robert Fruataci with their surviving three septuplets and older son wait outside court on Tuesday as judge rules on their medical malpractice and wrongful-death lawsuit against a Los Angeles infertility clinic. After the \$8 million settlement, an attorney announced that Pati Fruataci is pregnant with healthy twins after taking the same potent fertility drug that she took before conceiving the United States' first septuplets. (Reuters wirephoto)

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A gay demonstrator (left) presents the Princess of Wales (third from left) with a leaflet after the Princess had addressed the 16th International Congress of the Family in Brighton on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lesbians, gays rally at family meeting

BRIGHTON, England, July 13, (AP): Homosexual protesters yesterday climbed onto a stage inches (centimetres) from Princess Diana to proclaim their fitness as parents.

The princess had just opened the 16th International Congress for the Family. She blushed but sat calmly.

Placards The protesters carried pink placards which said, "Lesbian mothers are not pretending."

"The delegates to this congress are trying to make people believe that lesbian mothers and gay men looking after children are not real families but are pretend family groups," said protest leader Danielle Ahrens, 21.

"We have no lesser values than any other family," she said.

Many of the 2,000 delegates to the congress jeered and shouted "shame" as four lesbians and gay men marched onto the stage.

Criticised The princess' decision to open the four-day congress, which strongly opposes abortion, had been criticised by family planning groups. Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, shared the platform with the princess.

Congress committee member Evelyn Lochrin said the protesters had been asked not to hand out their leaflets.

"We felt they were detrimental to family life and may offend people, particularly children," she said.

"You cannot have true family life if you are living as a homosexual. We are prepared to listen to their views ... in a workshop."

Cautioned In her speech, the princess cautioned delegates. "In all your deliberations you should remember that the very idea of the human family has many different definitions, and perhaps those who depend on it most—the young, the old, the sick and the lonely—can really claim to know its meaning."

The protest raised questions about security for the princess but Sussex chief Constable Roger's Birch said the demonstration posed no danger and was handled "with great dignity."

Wilson criticised

Reporting of royal chit-chat

LONDON, July 13, (AP): The code that governs British treatment of royalty is largely unwritten but always strict, and novelist A.N. Wilson has violated one of the stern rules of all.

His sin has been to report a dinner-table chat with her majesty Queen Elizabeth the queen mother.

That her remarks to Wilson were fairly innocuous, and that the conversation took place nearly a decade ago, matters little. The affair has provoked some sharp language from London society.

"Scoundrel," thundered Lord Wyatt of Woodford. "An intolerable betrayal," said Nicholas Soames, member of Parliament and scion of the Churchill family.

Wilson, 39, is a gifted novelist and acute social commentator who clearly knew he was courting trouble when he published "The Queen Mother's Table-talk" in the weekly Spectator magazine two weeks ago.

"It is probably the grossest impropriety to embarrass her, or her host, by repeating our conversation," he wrote.

"I do so, however, without very much compunction, since she never gives interviews, and I can think of no better person than Queen Elizabeth with whom to start off an occasional series of conversations with men and women who have lived through most of the years of this century ... and whose memories stretch back far."

The article, published in the midst of national celebrations of the Queen Mother's 90th birthday, was thoughtful and affectionate.

But Lord Wyatt, himself a former journalist, was scandalised, especially since it was he who was host of the dinner.

"Wilson is boastfully shameless in being a scoundrel," he wrote in a letter to the Spectator published a week later. It was, he charged, a "deceitfully obtained and stolen interview."

Elton's Sacrifice-Healing Hands' tops chart

LONDON, July 13, (AP): Elton John held the top spot on the British pop singles chart for the third week with his "Sacrifice-Healing Hands."

A new single, "One Love" by the group Stone Roses, bounced into the charts at No 2.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's places in parenthesis:

1. (1) Sacrifice-Healing Hands — Elton John — Rocket-Polygram
2. (new) One Love-Stone Roses-Silverstone-Zomba
3. (2) Nessun Dorma-Luciano Pavarotti-Decca-

Polygram
4. (3) World in Motion... England-New Order — Factory-MCA
5. (8) U Can't Touch This — M.C. Hammer — Capitol EMI
6. (5) Close to You — Max Priest — 10 Records
7. (4) Ooops Up — Snap — Arista — BMG
8. (6) It Must Have Been Love — Roxette — EMI
9. (16) Thunderbirds Are Go — F.A.B. Feat M.C. Parker — Brothers Org.
10. (7) Mona-Craig McLachlan and Check 1-2 — Epic-CBS.

Leading agricultural company dealing in the marketing of flowers and related items has vacancy for a

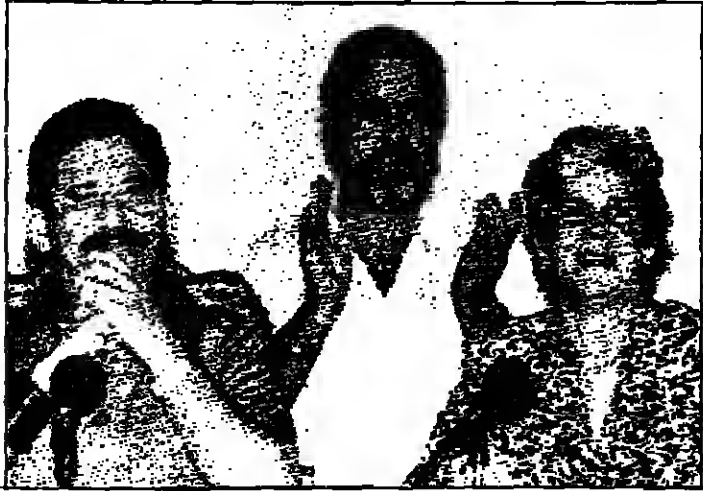
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The potential candidate should be:

- 1) Holder of at least a high school degree.
- 2) Fluent in English and spoken Arabic.
- 3) Very presentable.
- 4) Experienced in sales (not necessarily in flowers).
- 5) Ready and capable to undergo intensive training.
- 6) Preferably holder of Kuwaiti driving licence.
- 7) Holder of transferable residence.

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P.O. BOX 7199
SAFAT 22082,
KUWAIT.



President Violeta Chamorro, accompanied by Humberto Ortega, head of the armed forces (left) and Francisco Rosales, labour minister (centre) give a news conference on Wednesday in which the army leader expressed backing for Chamorro and Chamorro said she would not negotiate with pro-Sandinista unions until street barricades were lifted and government buildings cleared. (Reuters wirephoto)



Former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega speaks during a press conference on Thursday, to discuss last week's confrontation between the government and pro-Sandinista unions. Ortega said that if the Sandinistas had wanted to overthrow the government, they could have, but that was not the purpose of the strike. (Reuters wirephoto)

Managua accord ends workers' strike

Return of lands suspended, 43pc salary rise

MANAGUA, July 13, (AP): Negotiators for the government and striking unions agreed early yesterday to end a 10-day strike that tore up city streets, brought commerce to a halt and left at least six people dead.

The accord was signed by negotiators for President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro and the Sandinista-led National Workers' Front, ending the biggest challenge so far to Chamorro's 10-week-old government. The strike took hold July 2 and spread through most government ministries and many state businesses. Strike leaders claimed 90,000 workers took part.

The Sandinistas, who left office April 25 after a February election defeat, remain the largest single political force in Nicaragua.

In its settlement, the government agreed to suspend a decree permitting the return of lands confiscated by the Sandinistas to the previous landowners. It also agreed to

give workers a 43 per cent salary raise in July and another increase of undetermined size in August.

Under the pact, public sector workers fired since Chamorro took office April 25 will be paid and there will be no retribution against the strikers.

The Sandinistas had opposed the layoffs ordered by the US-backed government, which is trying to cut the budget deficit and nurseback to health an economy ravaged by a decade of war and US trade sanctions. Opposition also was strong in the country of 3.7 million people to government plans to sell many of the properties the Sandinistas confiscated and nationalised after coming to power in a 1979 popular revolution.

The strike closed the international airport, cut electricity and water service, limited telephone service and mail delivery, reduced gasoline supplies and

shut down factories and businesses.

It was the second major strike, and the most violent, in Chamorro's administration. At least six people were reported killed and 100 injured in fighting between strikers and government supporters since Friday.

A public sector strike in May forced the government to grant 100 per cent raises and other important concessions. The raises helped offset high inflation in Nicaragua, where the average worker's salary is only about \$100 a month.

The minimum salary is about \$20 a month, and inflation was officially listed at 124.7 per cent for June.

The latest strike was initially called to protest the firings of government workers

and to demand a voice in government economic policy, which the workers say favours the wealthy under the new government.

Those demands were met in part through the indemnification and the land redistribution issue.

The government had proclaimed the strike illegal, claiming it was politically motivated.

Workers were returning to their jobs yesterday. The streets of many neighbourhoods remained torn up where Sandinista backers had used the paving stones for barricades.

The unions that called the strikes, the army and police are all loyal to the leftist Sandinistas, who ruled the country for a decade until their February loss at the polls. The US economic embargo that helped create shortages even in basic foodstuffs, contributed to their defeat.

Cristiani suggests all forces reduction

SAN SALVADOR, July 13, (Agencies): President Alfredo Cristiani has suggested a simultaneous reduction of rebel and government armed forces. He added the next round of peace talks would take place July 20 in Costa Rica.

Cristiani was responding to concerns that neither side wants to be first to reduce strength, a major sticking point in peace negotiations.

"There is an easy way to resolve that. Simultaneity," he said during a breakfast meeting with foreign correspondents yesterday.

The president declined to elaborate on his government's position on armed forces reduction for the round of peace talks scheduled for later this month. He cited the two sides' accord on confidentiality.

The talks are designed to end a 10-year civil war that has killed an estimated 72,000 people.

The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, the leftist guerrilla army, has demanded "demilitarisation" of Salvadoran society. It is demanding a drastic reduction in troop strength, an end to military impunity for human rights abuses and a purge of the officer corps.

The two sides have agreed on an agenda and to political accords that would permit a cease-fire by mid-September. The talks began in Venezuela in May and continued in Mexico last month.

Cristiani said the government would propose acceleration of the negotiation schedule during this month's round, which is tentatively set to begin July 20 in Costa Rica.

He said the government wants the talks to be more or less continuous, with relatively brief recesses for consultations, until accords are reached.

He said the talks could bog down if the rebels insist on "punitive measures for what happened in the past." The president urged the insurgents to adopt positions promoting "reconciliation rather than confrontation."

Immigration officials in Long Beach, California, have arrested a man seeking political asylum as an informer on the death squads linked to the murders of six Jesuit priests in El Salvador.

Cesar Vielman Joya Martinez was arrested by Immigration and Naturalisation Service agents on a felony warrant for failing to appear in court on an immigration charge. Ins spokesman Ron Rogers said Wednesday.

Cristiani suggested yesterday he had approved an order by the army's chief of staff to search the residence of six Jesuit priests three days before they were slain by suspected members of the army.

Cristiani said the order was given by the Chief of Staff of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, Col. Rene Emilio Ponce.



Some of the 18 aides of Colombian lord Pablo Escobar are presented to the press on Wednesday, after they were detained by police forces during a raid. Thousands of police and soldiers are pursuing Escobar, accompanied by 15 bodyguards, through a semi-urban region some 100 km off Medellin. (Reuters wirephoto)



Pablo Escobar

Zulema sues Menem for eviction

Barred from retrieving belongings

BUENOS AIRES, July 13, (UPI): Mrs Zulema Yoma De Menem, 51, has sued her estranged husband, President Carlos Menem, for her eviction from the presidential mansion, judicial sources said yesterday.

The damage suit was presented Wednesday in the court of San Isidro, a residential suburb north of Buenos Aires, the sources said.

Menem, who has been separated from his wife since May 8, ordered Mrs Menem evicted on June 12 from the official presidential residence at Olivos, located 18 miles (28 km) north of Buenos Aires.

Mrs Menem tried to return to the mansion on at least two occasions to retrieve personal belongings, but was barred by a presidential guard, according to the suit.

She claimed she has still not been able to remove her furniture and personal effects from the residence.

Zulema Yoma has been living with her daughter, Zulemita, 19, in a downtown Buenos Aires apartment since leaving the official residence.

The Presiding judge in the case, Delma Cabrera, declined to give more details, and said, "it is about a question of right to privacy, even if the protagonists are public figures."

The civil and commercial code of Buenos Aires established rights for persons "who have been dispossessed totally or partially of goods (furniture) by violence or clandestine methods," he said.

If he comes back, he will be arrested; Duvalier's return termed 'rumour'

UNITED NATIONS, July 13, (UPI): Haiti's Foreign Minister Kessler Clermont said yesterday that the ousted former president-for-life Jean-Claude Duvalier would be arrested if he returned from exile in France.

Clermont said it was just a "rumour" that Duvalier, nicknamed "Baby Doc," would be flying back to Haiti at the end of this month as reported by some Haitian press.

"If he comes back, he will be arrested because

there are complaints against him," Clermont said.

The minister also said the provisional government of President Ertha Pascal Trouillot has begun a legal process to expel former Duvalier's high-ranking officials who returned from exile to Port-au-Prince last week.

The presence of Roger Lafontant and William Regalia on the island triggered a general strike that shut down the capital Wednesday.

day.

Lafontant was responsible for the feared, "Tontons Macoutes," a paramilitary force under Duvalier known for its terror tactics against the population. Regalia was held responsible for the massacre of 34 voters in the 1987 democratic elections, one year after Duvalier was ousted from power and took refuge in France.

Regalia was a senior aide to Duvalier and served under two subsequent military governments after Duvalier went into exile. Duvalier and some former aides were accused of looting the country treasury. Haiti is considered one of the poorest countries in the world.

Duvalier inherited the president-for-life position in 1971 from his father who ruled the island for 14 years.

Liberia peace talks resume

Rebels vow to fight on

MONROVIA, July 13, (AP): Hundreds of people fled in panic yesterday after soldiers searched houses and fired at a fishing boat suspected of carrying rebels.

The latest disturbances came as peace talks resumed in neighbouring Sierra Leone under the auspices of the Economic Community of West African States (Ecomog).

A four-man delegation representing rebel leader Charles Taylor conferred for at least five hours with community negotiators. Representatives of Liberian President Samuel Doe said they had not been invited to the session.

The session was addressed for three hours this morning by the spokesman for the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia, Thomas Woewijiu.

Informed sources say Woewijiu stressed the Front's stand of no cessation of hostility in the conflict until President Doe steps down.

The sources said the Front's spokesman accused the Doe regime of "the reign of terror in Monrovia" adding that the front believes in bringing peace to the war-ravaged country.

The sources also said that Woewijiu has supported the formation of an interim government in Liberia.

Woewijiu will continue to address the mediation committee, which is made up of the Gambia, Nigeria, Togo and Ghana.

Troops also fired into the Nigerian embassy early last morning, where 150 Nigerians were taking cover from the six-month civil war. Two bullets grazed one guard's face, barely missing his eye.

More than 6,000 Liberians and foreigners have sought refuge in churches and embassy compounds in the rebel-besieged capital of 400,000 people.

It was the army's second violation of a diplomatic mission's immunity. In May, soldiers stormed a UN compound and took away more than 30 men and boys of the rebel's Gio and Mano tribes. The United Nations immediately pulled out of Liberia.

Troops made house-to-house searches in Monrovia free port, which rebels have attacked twice within the last week.

Monrovia's, their nerves shattered by the two-week siege and nightly shooting and looting by Doe's army, ran toward the city centre seeking sanctuary.

Fouling Troops fired mortars and automatic rifles in the eastern suburb of Paynesville in an apparent counter-offensive, residents said.

One witness said the fighting appeared concentrated near Liberia's state radio station, which has been off the air for more than a week.

Diplomats in Monrovia and Liberians behind rebel lines have reported fighting between mainstream rebel leader Taylor and a splinter group of 500 to 700 men led by one of his former commanders, Prince Johnson.

Taylor, leader of the National Patriotic Front, has said his rebels would not observe a unilateral ceasefire called by Doe last week and would capture Monrovia by the end of this week.

He sent a delegation, however, to peace talks with Doe's government in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone.

Sources close to Doe said the president was packed and ready to leave. The United States, Liberia's oldest ally, has offered to take Doe abroad, but not into internal exile.

The sources said that if forced to flee, Doe, 40, would prefer to go to his home region of Grand Gedeh county in eastern Liberia, a stronghold of his minority Krahn tribe.

Doe has sent about half his 1,000-strong presidential guard to Grand Gedeh, along with arms, ammunition and thousands of Krahn civilians.

The Freetown talks lasted three hours last morning, and another session was held in the evening.

But before the talks began Woewijiu offered little hope there was anything to negotiate.

"We have not come to discuss a ceasefire," he said after disembarking from the trawler "Tresie", which had made the 30-hour voyage from the rebel-held port of Buchanan in neighbouring Liberia.

Woewijiu said the economic union was "a very powerful institution and we have an obligation to come and hear what they have to say."

"After all," he said, "when all this is over, we will be left broke, and we will need material help from somebody."

Brazil announces end of deficit

BRASILIA, July 13, (AP): The government announced yesterday it had liquidated a chronic budget deficit, paving the way for lower inflation and renewed talks with foreign creditors.

Economy Minister Zelia Cardoso de Mello said Brazil would have a budget surplus equivalent to 1.65 per cent of its Gross National Product, which the ministry put at \$500 billion.

Earlier estimates had projected a deficit of 7.82 per cent.

"We have liquidated a chronic situation of fiscal imbalance, which was one of the main causes of inflation," Cardoso de Mello said in a live television interview.

To obtain the surplus, the government raised tax revenue 16 per cent, cut planned investments 39 per cent and reduced costs 18 per cent, the minister said.

A key to balancing the budget was President Fernando Collor de Mello's controversial "administrative reform" plan, she said. It includes the selling of government cars and mansions, closing or selling dozens of state-owned companies and firing some 360,000 federal employees.

Despite a wave of labour strikes to protest the planned firings, Cardoso de Mello said, "the price was worth paying."

Planes, trains, ports

Menem: sell everything!

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, July 13, (AP): Planes, trains, ships, ports, casinos, racetracks, hotels, radio stations, electric power plants—dozens of businesses, industries and monopolies created by the state or nationalised decades ago are for sale.

In June alone, a majority stake in the telephone company Entel was awarded in June: 9,800 kilometres (6,076 miles) of federal highways were leased to private firms; and foreign companies were granted access to potentially rich oil fields.

Under President Carlos Menem, the state that has dominated Argentina's economy since the 1940s is redefining its role, and stepping back.

The reason: This once-prosperous nation is undergoing recession, high unemployment and triple-digit inflation. Its foreign debt of \$66 billion is the third-highest in the developing world, and the government is bankrupt.

"Argentina is not well. Argentina is broken," the Peronist president said last July 9 in his inauguration speech. "At this historic time begins the reconstruction."

Few Argentines suspected Menem would sell companies that were taken over by his party's founder, Juan Domingo Peron, beginning in the 1940s, and which came to be considered the national patrimony. He said little about it in his campaign.

But Menem concluded the entities that once were an economic engine had become an anchor, which he is trying to cut loose.

Oil production stagnated in the 1980s because the state company YPF lacked capital and secondary recovery technology. Promising basins were never explored. Potentially an exporter, Argentina barely produces enough for its own needs.

One-third of the state highway system of 28,500 paved kilometres (14,670 paved miles) is in marginal shape of worse, according to the government. Private studies say the ratio is closer to one-half.

About four locomotives in 10 are out of service at any moment, officials at the state train company Ferrocarriles Argentinos admit. And about 40 per cent of track that dates to the 1920s is so worn that trains ride it with caution.

Argentines wait years to get a new telephone line—only to find it's impossible to call from one city to another because of jammed circuits, or to make an international call without an operator.

Within Buenos Aires, calls frequently get misdirected and callers cannot hear or make themselves be heard, or even get a dial tone. "The system is in collapse," said entel director Maria Julia Alsogaray.

Perhaps worst of all, public services are relatively costly as well as inefficient. By all accounts, public companies are poorly managed, overstaffed and strangled in red tape. Often they are shut down by striking workers.

Fares go uncollected on state trains. Employees of the state water and electricity companies get service at a discount. Politicians receive free tickets on the state airline.

The 13 biggest public companies lost nearly \$4 billion in 1989. That amount represents about 7 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product, and the biggest share of the annual fiscal deficit.

Depreciation far outstrips new investment. This capital city of 10 million rationed energy last year when drought shriveled production at hydroelectric complexes. Meanwhile, construction of a third nuclear power plant and the huge Yacretta dam lag for lack of funds.

Among other problems, labour unions are intransigent, over-worked courts are unable to enforce contracts adequately, and markets are so volatile that currency and interest rates soar and slide daily.

Who would want to buy Argentina's companies? Surprisingly, there is no shortage of bidders.



Free passage

Czechoslovakia yesterday urged Cuba to provide free passage to 14 Cubans who have taken refuge in Prague's embassy in Havana. Czechoslovakia also appealed to the Soviet Union, West Germany and Italy to help resolve the crisis. Picture shows uniformed police guarding the Czechoslovakian embassy on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mohawks, officials in talks

Dispute over building golf course on ancestral lands

OKA, Quebec, July 13, (AP): Mohawk Indians have opened talks with the Quebec government after a police officer died in a confrontation over plans to build a golf course on ancestral land.

But the Mohawks in this town near Montreal vowed to keep their barricades up until police leave and they receive immunity from prosecution.

Quebec's Native Affairs Minister, John Ciacca, said the two sides had held talks late yesterday and agreed to more talks later today.

"We've had a very positive meeting," Ciacca said. He said yesterday's talks were halted to respect the Mohawk tradition of not continuing this type of a meeting after sunset.

The dispute centres on plans by the Oka Town government to build a golf course adjacent to the Indians' ancestral lands.

Police brought in reinforcements yesterday, bringing to about 1,000 the number of officers in the area.

The Mohawks dug trenches and strengthened their concrete-block and barbed-wire barriers with crushed police cars as they prepared for a possible showdown.

Dozens of police wearing flak jackets and carrying shotguns were seen patrolling their new sandbagged positions reinforced with concrete blocks.

All day yesterday, the two sides faced each other across their barricades, about 200 Mohawks at the top of a hill on the highway that goes through this picturesque town, 18 miles west of Montreal, and the police at the bottom of the hill.

"The police have to retreat completely from the area before we can ever work out a deal with Ciacca," Mohawk spokeswoman Ellen Gabriel said.

A Ciacca aide said earlier the minister was negotiating with members of the Mohawk Band Council and their Warriors Society, trying to resolve the dispute.

Mohawks, wearing camouflage and carrying revolvers, hunting rifles and assault rifles, raised the yellow and red Warrior Society flag over the golf course's immaculate lawns. They commandeered a fleet of golf carts to ferry leaders and messages between encampments.

The Mohawks claim title to a small pine forest Oka wants to cut down so the golf course can add nine holes. Police intervened at the request of Oka's mayor after Mohawks refused to tear down a small barricade they built four months ago.

Early Wednesday, a raiding force of about 100 Quebec police attacked the barricade. They retreated after Cpl Marcel Lemay, 31, was shot. Police were not certain whether he was shot by Mohawks or fellow police.

Jocelyn Turcotte, president of the Quebec Provincial Police Association, came to the lines to talk to his union members.

To an act of solidarity, Mohawks on the Kahnawake reserve, south of Montreal, threw up barricades Wednesday to shut down the Mercier Bridge. The bridge leads from the south shore of the St Lawrence river into Montreal and the action snarled traffic for thousands of commuters. The Mohawks said the blockade will remain as long as the situation in Oka is not resolved. Members of the militant



Brandishing a gun, a masked Mohawk stands atop a highway barricade made from police cars on Wednesday after a police raid failed to uproot the Mohawks, who are trying to stop a golf course near Montreal. (Reuters wirephoto)



Armed Mohawks man a barricade of overturned police vehicles after a raid by police failed to uproot the Indians who are trying to stop a new golf course extension near Montreal. (Reuters wirephoto)

warrior societies from Kahnawake and the Akwesasne Reserve, south of Cornwall, Ontario, have also come to the Oka's pine forest in solidarity. An autopsy reportedly has concluded Lemay died from a wound to his heart after a bullet entered just below his arm where

his flak jacket does not protect him. He also sustained wounds to the face and chest.

Oka Mayor Jean Ouellette, who called the police after Mohawks ignored a court injunction to tear down the barricade, was believed in hiding because of death threats.

Oka residents blame Ouellette for Wednesday's confrontation and say the Mohawk land claims should have been settled by negotiation.

Quebec government officials say they did not order Wednesday's assault and have expressed anger at the incident.

Thousands exposed to radiation in '40s

States first public acknowledgement

RICHLAND, Wash., July 13, (UPI): About 13,500 unsuspecting neighbours of a government atom bomb plant were exposed to dangerous levels of cancer-causing radiation a generation ago, scientists say in a landmark study of formerly secret records.

In the first detailed estimate of radiation doses to the public from a federal nuclear weapons facility, scientists said yesterday as many as 13,500 people in Washington and Oregon received high doses of radioactive iodine from air emissions released from the Hanford nuclear reservation between 1944 and 1947.

While not directly released by the government, the \$15-million study

paid for by the Energy Department represents the first official acknowledgement that releases of radiation from Hanford were large enough to cause illness, including cancer and thyroid disease.

The study, done by a government contractor and supervised by an independent panel of scientists, estimated the dose to the thyroid glands of those 13,500 people were 33 RADs (radiation absorbed doses) or more.

That compares to the dose of 1 RAD the whole body would normally absorb from natural background radiation over three years from

New drug reduces spinal fractures

BOSTON, July 13, (AP): A medicine that strengthens elderly women's fragile bones can cut their risk of spinal fractures in half, significantly reducing the painful and crippling effects of osteoporosis, a study concludes.

The medicine, called Etidronate, reverses much of the slow loss of bone that underlies osteoporosis, the brittle-bones disease that afflicts an estimated 15 million to 20 million Americans.

The research shows that Etidronate can prevent crushed vertebrae, which are extremely common in old age, especially among women. This fracture is the most frequent consequence of osteoporosis. However, there is no evidence yet that the treatment will stop broken hips, a less common but more serious hazard of the disease.

"This is really exciting," said Dr Nelson B. Watts of Emory University, principal author of the study. "We can wait until somebody is already in bad shape and make them better. They won't stand straight or play basketball. But the deterioration will be halted."

Experts believe Etidronate will soon join two other prescription drugs — Estrogen and Calcitonin — for routine treatment of the disease, and could become the preferred medicine for many elderly victims.

"We think it's extremely encouraging news," said Sandra Raymond, executive director of the National Osteoporosis Foundation. "Our arsenal is very small. Hopefully now, based on these studies, we may have another option."

The latest study, conducted at seven US medical centres, was published in yesterday's New England journal of medicine. In May, the journal carried a smaller study by European researchers that reached similar conclusions. Both studies were financed by Procter and Gamble's Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals, which makes Etidronate.

In the latest work, 429 women with osteoporosis were randomly assigned to take Etidronate or placebo for two years. When it was over, the spinal bone density of those getting Etidronate had increased 5 per cent, and they suffered half as many vertebral fractures as the other women.

"The impact of Etidronate was greatest in individuals with the lowest bone mass," noted Dr William Peck of Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. "That means we are talking about reducing fractures in people who are at the greatest risk. That's an exciting possibility."

The study showed that in women with the weakest bones, the medicine resulted in a two-thirds drop in fractures.

During the study, the women took the medicine for two weeks out of every three months. The drug is already on the market for treatment of Paget's disease, another bone ailment. However, it has not been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for osteoporosis.

Etidronate carries no known side effects, costs between \$200 and \$300 per year and is taken in pills. Calcitonin requires three injections a week and costs 10 times more.



Alfred Merhan, of Iranian origin, poses with his belongings and plane ticket on Wednesday. Merhan has been stranded for two years at Paris' Roissy airport since leaving Iran, his passport having been confiscated. Deprived of the document he remains stateless, unable to leave or enter France or any other country until the authorities decide how to resolve his situation. (Reuters wirephoto)

No place to go

Weary traveller

PARIS, July 13, (Reuters): Flight delays and airport food are no problem for one weary traveller. He has spent two years sitting out the departures board at Charles de Gaulle airport.

Alfred Merhan, also known as Abdul Nasser Karimi, has a ticket in hand but nowhere to go.

Clutching his British Airways coupon to London in one hand and a bear in the other, he sits on the bench on the left side of the board. It has been home for the past year. He spent the previous 12 months on the right side of the same board.

Merhan, as he prefers to be called, told reporters on Wednesday he arrived in Paris from Brussels in 1988 for a two-day trip. He has since been unable to leave the airport or enter Paris because he has no passport and no visa for anywhere.

"The paperwork takes so long to go through," he sighed. Aged 45 and starting to go bald, the Iranian-born traveller has nothing but a weekend bag and a free copy of a newspaper. He looks spruce and in good health despite the long wait without a penny to his name.

Merhan says he was born to a Scottish mother and an Iranian father and holds dual British and Canadian citizenship. Iranian officials confiscated his passport and papers when he took part in anti-Shah demonstrations in London in 1975, he said. Belgium gave him stateless status in 1988 but he was robbed of those documents on the way to Paris.

He applied unsuccessfully to authorities in Britain to replace his passport.

"He's quite nice. We all know him and like him. But he has never had a British passport and as far as we can tell, he's Iranian," British embassy spokesman Richard Wilkinson said. "He's applied numerous times but even if his mother was Scottish, he wouldn't have the right to enter the UK."

Merhan continues to wait and hope. "The people at British Airways, Air Canada and Lufthansa are very nice and give me things to eat," he said. "It's a bit like a youth hostel I stayed in in Brussels before I came here. I take my shower twice a week, and the waiting bench in hall 6 is very comfortable," he said.

A quiet and earnest man, Merhan said he had grown accustomed to life in the departure zone but would like to move on.

"The problem is there's no dentist. I've been robbed three times and, well, it gets kind of boring after a while."

"I'm not being very productive," he added.

sources such as radon or cosmic rays. One RAD is equal to the amount of radiation a person would receive in about a dozen chest X-rays.

Of 270,000 people living around Hanford at the time, half received less than 1.7 RADs to their thyroid over three years and half more than 1.7 RADs, a computer analysis indicates.

The study said a relatively small number of infants and children may have gotten much larger doses from drinking milk from cows who grazed on contaminated grass. Theoretically those children could have received doses as high as 2,900 RADs, but the probability of such a massive dose is low.

Scientists supervising the study said they could not fully state that the doses would cause illness, but said a survey of possible health effects in Hanford area residents was warranted.

"We feel these radiation doses are large enough to justify investigating the effects of radiation from Hanford to thyroid disease in the surrounding population," said John Till, chairman of the Hanford environmental dose reconstruction project, an independent scientific panel overseeing the effort.

Till said the danger "is long since past" since iodine-131 has a very short half-life and decays into a harmless substance within a few months.

Radioactive iodine concentrates in the thyroid gland, where it can cause cancer and other diseases affecting the gland's ability to properly regulate growth, metabolism and other important body functions.

"Downwinders" of Hanford have long suspected they suffered health problems from the weapons site and could use yesterday's report and follow-up studies as evidence in legal claims against the government.

In June 1989 the government agreed to pay 73 million for long-term health monitoring of people living around an Ohio nuclear weapons plant where there were large-scale releases of radioactive materials.

Hanford critics, while not denying the importance of the new dose estimate study, said it included "bad science" and represented a conflict of interest because it was paid for by the Energy Department, which operates the plant.

Among other problems, the critics said the study did not take into account the effects of precipitation and how rain can create radioactive hot spots.

The scientists said many of the most exposed individuals were infants and small children, who are most sensitive to radioactive contamination of the thyroid.

Hanford no longer produces the plutonium fuel for atomic weapons, but it made the tritides area an atomic boom town when the first US bombs were being made and 30,000 people moved into the remote area in a year.

WHO plans to revise drinking water standards

CINCINNATI, July 13, (AP): People in developed countries worry about chemical contamination in their drinking water, while Third World countries struggle just to get enough drinkable water, a World Health Organisation official said yesterday.

The Geneva-based organisation is trying to balance those concerns by revising its guidelines for water quality, said George Becking, who heads WHO's international programme on chemical safety.

WHO is working with member countries in an effort to develop, publish and distribute revised guidelines by early 1992, he said. The organisation's current guidelines were last issued in 1984, based on 1981 data.

The health organisation's 161 member countries may use the recommended standards as guidelines for their own national water quality regulations.

Becking, a toxicologist based in North Carolina, said residents of developed nations have become more concerned in recent years with chemical contamination in their water and disposal of hazardous substances.

Wildfires blacken forests

MARSEILLE, July 13, (AP): More than 2,000 fire-fighters on Wednesday mastered a series of wildfires that blackened scenic southern France in the first major wave of fires to strike this year.

About 50 separate blazes burned through on Tuesday night into Wednesday, the worst consuming 2,000 hectares (4,950 acres) of forestland near the village of Coudoux.

At least a dozen homes are destroyed in the region, but no one was killed. Three fire-fighters suffered smoke inhalation.

Officials said the casualty toll could have been much worse, to a nearby pine forest, heat from the blaze exploded a stock of bombs buried after World War II. Fire-fighters stayed clear of the area.

Fires also struck near Aix-En-Provence, Septemes-Les-Vallons and dozens of other locations, but there were no reports of property losses or injuries.

In all, some 3,500 hectares (8,650 acres) of brushland and forest burned, driven by 120 kilometre per hour (75 miles per hour) mistral winds pushing down the Rhone river from the north.

New Down's syndrome test

Results within a day

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): The standard three-week test for women's syndrome can be tremendously stressful for expectant parents and even unavailable to some younger mothers because of cost, but a new test may change that.

Oncor Inc., based in Gaithersburg, Maryland, says it has developed a testing system that can detect the syndrome in fetuses in one day, and improvement that may provide faster and cheaper results for expectant couples.

Down's syndrome is a form of mental retardation caused by having three copies rather than two of chromosome No. 21. It occurs in about one in every 800 births.

The testing system can also detect disease-causing, abnormal numbers of copies of chromosomes 13, 18, X and Y, although it cannot detect other chromosomal abnormalities or defects in specific genes, said Stephen Turner, Oncor's chairman and chief executive officer.

Oncor, which develops genetic tests, started sell-

ing the Down's syndrome portion of the system in June, although the procedure should not replace standard testing yet.

Traditional chromosome testing takes about three weeks because cells, once extracted from the womb, must be grown in the laboratory and treated before their chromosomes are examined under a microscope.

The new approach eliminates the growing of cells. Instead, it uses genetic probes that attach themselves to each copy of the chromosome being tested. The probes show up as fluorescent spots under a microscope, where they can be counted, revealing the number of chromosome copies present.

Turner said the technique produced no false readings in the company's experiments.

The company recommends it for use only in combination with standard chromosome analysis. It can indicate high-risk samples for priority testing and confirm cases that were difficult to diagnose, Turner said.

Gene causing elephant man's disorders, grotesque tumours discovered

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): Researchers have identified a gene underlying elephant man's disease, which afflicts 100,000 Americans and can cause grotesque tumours, crippling and learning defects.

Discovery of the gene is a vital step toward developing therapy for the now-unreleasable genetic disorder, that has puzzled doctors for decades, experts said yesterday.

Researcher Dr Francis Collins said it might be years before the discovery results in drugs or other direct treatment, but that diagnostic tests to identify those who carry the defective gene may be developed

rather quickly.

Scientists at the University of Michigan and the University of Utah, working independently, found the neurofibromatosis, or NF, gene at virtually the same time.

For Collins, leader of the Michigan group, it was the second major gene discovery in 11 months. He was a co-discoverer of the cystic fibrosis gene in August 1989.

"We have pried open the black box of neurofibromatosis and are peering inside," Collins said at a news conference.

The University of Utah co-discover of the gene is Dr Raymond White, whose paper will be published Friday in the journal Cell. Collins is publishing Friday in Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Neurofibromatosis is a genetic disorder that strikes about one in every 4,000 newborns.

For two-thirds of the patients, the symptoms are mild skin discolouration. For the rest, NF causes tumours that can pop up anywhere in the body, but always on nerve tissue.

The tumour growth can raise large globular masses,

on the face, trunk or limbs, and can distort growing bones, causing crippling or misalignment of the skull.

Symptoms often appear in early childhood, although many cases don't become known until the patient is in puberty.

The gene discovered by Collins and White relates to type I NF, also known as Von Recklinghausen disease. A type II NF is more rare and is associated with a separate gene.

"The worst part of NF is that there was no hope," said Porter Colley, a Massachusetts woman who has suffered from the disorder since childhood.



Protest rally

Truncheon-wielding riot police disperse student demonstrators in Manila during a rally protesting against tuition fee increases in front of the Department of Education in Manila last week. Seventeen demonstrators were injured during the violent dispersal. (Reuters wirephoto)

4 held for slaying

Radio commentator shot dead

MANILA, July 13, (AP): Police have arrested a policeman and three other people in the killing of a radio commentator and his son, the state-run Philippines News Agency reported yesterday.

The report said police withheld the names of the suspects in the ambush killing of Francisco Mararac, 46, and his son Jonas, 20, on Tuesday evening in Lingayen, 175 kilometres (110 miles) northwest of Manila.

Mararac, a commentator for a private radio station and production manager of the local weekly Sunday Punch, and his son were on their way home in a pedicab when gunmen fired at them with M-16 rifles.

Police recovered the gunmen's getaway motorcycle, which belonged to a Lingayen policeman.

Colleagues said Mararac had a reputation for hard-hitting commentaries about irregularities in the local administration.

The report said the police provincial commander, Col Ferdinand Lagman, ruled out involvement of the communist New People's Army in the killing. Lagman said Mararac may have been the victim of a vendetta.

The report said a man and his wife were found dead in the compound of a brother of Mararac about one month earlier. Mararac later reportedly sought a gun to protect himself after he was threatened by unknown men.

Mararac was the second journalist killed in the Philippines this week. On Sunday, Jean Ladrangan, 43, and her husband Gregorio, 48, were killed in a robbery in General Santos city, 1,036 kilometres (643 miles) southeast of Manila.

Mrs Ladrangan published a local newspaper. She was the third journalist murdered in General Santos city since 1983.

Investigation, arrest of police ordered

Colonel involved in drug deal killed

Shuffle of US envoys in Manila, Kuwait, Egypt expected

MANILA, July 13, (AP): The United States ambassador to Manila will be replaced next year as part of a diplomatic shuffle of US embassies in Kuwait, Egypt, Lebanon and the Philippines, diplomatic sources said today.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Ambassador Nicholas Platt would be given a new assignment by mid-1991 but his next post had not been decided.

Platt's replacement is expected to be Frank G. Wisner, a career diplomat who is the present US

ambassador to Cairo, the sources added. The source said other US ambassadors to be included in the shuffle are those assigned in Kuwait and Lebanon.

US embassy spokesman Stanley Schrager said Platt had been planning to leave next year but would not confirm other details. Platt arrived here in August 1987.

Schrager said Platt would have completed his extension by next year and would move on to another assignment. He did not elaborate.

three were involved in drug trafficking and whether they were killed "under justifiable circumstances or otherwise."

He said the initial reports received by the military showed the three victims were shot in the head at close range inside their car, and that there was no gunfight between them and agents, contrary to Jaylo's report.

De Villa said he has also requested National Bureau of Investigation director Alfredo Lim to put his agents involved in the incident also under technical arrest.

Technical arrest means the bureau agents and policemen would be held under the custody of their superiors and given no

assignments pending the results of the investigation.

De Villa said Lim, the former Manila police chief, agreed to cooperate in the investigation. Jaylo, former chief of the Manila police anti-narcotics division, and about a dozen policemen were assigned on special duty to the bureau after Lim took office last year.

The government has been promising a crackdown on the flourishing drug trade for months. Last week, Aquino's daughter Kris launched an anti-drug campaign geared toward youth.

It thus remained unclear why policemen involved in one of the most spectacular successes in the war against drugs were being

arrested.

Last year, Sen. Ernest Herrera complained that the military's anti-narcotics command was so corrupt that senior officers often tipped off dealers to pending arrests.

Lim and Jaylo were among police officers who received the hall of fame award from Aquino during a ceremony on Thursday at the presidential palace.

Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos has urged co-ordination between Lim's bureau and the military in drug operations.

A 70-year-old American has been fatally stabbed in the southern city of Dipolog by men hired by the father of his Philippine wife to secure the victim's insurance, police said.



Korean protest

Riot policemen try to disperse demonstrating students as petrol bombs hurled by the protesters explode in the southwestern Korean city of Kwangju on Friday. About 200 radicals attacked a ruling party office in the city with firebombs in

protest against the passage of "undemocratic" bills in parliament. (Reuters wirephoto)

4 opposition lawmakers resign

Seoul denies Amnesty charges

SEOUL, July 13, (AP): Four opposition lawmakers submitted their resignations today charging that the National Assembly was a "rubber stamp" and calling for its immediate dissolution to prepare for new elections.

South Korea denying allegations by Amnesty International, said today that it neither holds political prisoners nor practices torture.

"It is regrettable that without giving any evidence or criteria, it (Amnesty International) defined some of those in prison as prisoners of conscience and demanded their release," the Justice Ministry said in a

statement.

The statement claimed that under the government of President Roh Tae-Woo, no one has been punished solely because of ideology.

News reports quoted political leaders saying at least two more lawmakers were expected to resign from the 299-member Parliament over the weekend.

The resignations climaxed a week of controversy over government-sponsored bills which would restructure the nation's broadcast industry and the military's operational command. Opposition groups claim

the government is railroaded the bills through the legislature.

In the provincial capital of Kwangju, about 200 radical students hurled firebombs at a government building today and were dispersed by riot police who resorted to tear gas, said the Joong-Ang daily news.

Meanwhile, hundreds of broadcast workers shouting anti-government slogans walked off their jobs today at Munwha Broadcast Corp. television to protest planned government changes to the national broadcast network.

A strike vote was being taken among 5,000 union workers at the state-run Korean Broadcasting System Co., the largest of the country's three networks.

Broadcast union leaders claim the moves are intended to strengthen the government's grip on the broadcasting system prior to next year's national elections. They say new bills will effectively allow the government to control ownership and censor programming of broadcast networks.

The government claims it is seeking to rejuvenate the broadcast industry, introducing new programming and allowing the formation of new privately owned stations and Cable Television.

Most of MBC's news programmes were shortened or cancelled and senior management officials took over programming responsibilities, the network said.

In its annual report released this week, the London-based human rights organisation charged that South Korea holds about 900 people for political reasons and practices torture on political violators.



Four opposition members of South Korea's parliament give a joint news conference on Friday in Seoul to announce their resignation in protest at the ruling party's unilateral passage of "undemocratic" bills in parliament. (Reuters wirephoto)

Agreement reached on Korean unification talks

SEOUL, July 13, (UPI): South and North Korea agreed yesterday on unprecedented talks between their prime ministers that could lead to peaceful unification of the nations, divided since 1945.

A government spokesman in South Korea said officials from each side met in private for two hours at the truce village of Panmunjom, 35 miles (56 km) north of Seoul, and agreed on a draft accord spelling out procedural details for the meetings that would

begin in Seoul in early September.

The draft agreement will be signed and exchanged between the two sides at the truce village July 26 and the full contents disclosed, the spokesman said.

Under the agreement, the first session of the talks between the two prime ministers will take place in Seoul in September, followed by a second meeting in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang in mid-October, the spokesman said.

House passes China bill

Declines to block Bush



Chinese dissident scientist Fang Lizhi stands next to the telescope at the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge University July 11. (Reuters wirephoto)

HK rights will go, says Fang

To settle in US

LONDON, July 13, (AP): Exiled Chinese dissident Fang Lizhi predicts all democratic rights in Hong Kong will be removed if the current Beijing leadership remains in power when the colony reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

Fang who left China for Britain last month, made his comments in an interview published today in the London newspaper The Independent. The astro-physicist is expected to settle in the United States soon after accepting an invitation to do research at Princeton University in New Jersey.

"I understand your (the British) concern about the Hong Kong issue. I have many friends there. They are very afraid that there is no guarantee of democracy after 1997," Fang told the newspaper.

"If the same people are still in power in Beijing then, there is no doubt that they will remove all democratic rights in Hong Kong, whatever their promises now."

Hong Kong is scheduled to revert to Chinese sovereignty in 1997 when Britain's lease on the colony expires.

Fang, 54, and his wife Li Shuxian flew to Britain aboard a US Air Force transport jet from Beijing on June 25.

Their arrival followed an agreement between China, Britain and the United States allowing them to leave the US Embassy in Beijing, where they had been since taking refuge during the Chinese government's military crackdown on pro-democracy students in June 1989.

WASHINGTON, July 13, (UPI): A House subcommittee declined yesterday to block President George Bush's recommendation that China retain most-favoured-nation trade status and instead voted to require that China make "significant progress" on human rights or face sanctions next year.

The measure approved on a voice vote by the trade panel of the House Ways and Means Committee represented the first congressional action on Bush's May 24 decision, which lowers the price of Chinese imports in America.

But because Bush opposes any conditions on China's trade status and Congress is unlikely to override his veto, members of the subcommittee said their vote was at best "symbolic" and at worst "a charade."

The panel rejected a stronger proposal by Democratic Congressman Thomas Downey of New York and Marty Russo of Illinois that would have required China to meet certain human rights requirements next year instead of making progress.

The measure approved by the subcommittee only requires that before granting most-favoured-nation trade status that the President certify China is making "significant progress" on reversing the pattern of "gross violations" of human rights that began with last June's Tiananmen Square massacre.

Specifically, the President would have to certify China is releasing political prisoners, ending martial law in any area including Tibet, easing restrictions on press freedom and the Voice of America, ending harassment of Chinese in America, and dropping fees for students studying abroad.

The President also could grant most-favoured-nation status if a failure to do so would harm Hong Kong, which depends heavily on trade with mainland China.

The bill sponsored by Congressman Donald Pease, Democrat of Ohio, is much weaker than one introduced Tuesday by Democratic leader George Mitchell of Maine that would suspend China's trade status in 1990 unless it meets conditions such as releasing political prisoners.

Supporters of the peace proposal, mostly moderate Democrats and Republicans, argued that trade sanctions would hurt US businesses and cause the Chinese government to take more hardline positions.

But liberals Russo and Downey and Conservative Congressman Richard Schulze, Republican of Pennsylvania, argued on moral grounds that tougher sanctions were needed.

"I think the American people were tired of equivocation on freedom," Schulze said. "I urge this subcommittee to... stop playing these little games."

Russo said the United States only supports human rights until it affects "our business people." He also argued Congress should not be afraid to take action against other countries on trade, saying it would be better to "slap them in the face" than plan a "footsie game" leading to large trade deficits.

Premier Li Peng said yesterday that China appreciates Japan's willingness to resume loans and hopes the two sides can solve what he called recent problems in their relations.

The Foreign Ministry, meanwhile, urged the World Bank to resume its normal lending to China.

Don't try to declare government, Burmese junta tells victorious opposition

RANGOON, July 13, (AP): The military junta today told the opposition that scored a landslide election victory six weeks ago not to try to declare a government.

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt, the head of military intelligence, said the junta would not yield to international demands that it transfer power to the National League for Democracy and release the opposition group's general-secretary, Aung San

Suu Kyi.

Ms. Suu Kyi, the daughter of Burma's foremost independence hero, has been under house arrest since last July 20.

"The (junta) is a military government ruling the country under martial law. No attempt for a unilateral declaration of government will be tolerated," Khin Nyunt told the weekly government news briefing in Rangoon.

He acknowledged international pressure to transfer power and free Ms. Suu Kyi, "but we do not care at all about such threats."

The pressure amounted to "undue interference in the internal affairs of our country," Khin Nyunt said.

The junta took power in 1988, brutally crushing a national uprising for democracy. It allowed the nation's first free election in 30 years to be held May

27. The National League trounced the military, winning 396 of 485 parliament seats.

The military government says the newly elected parliament must approve a constitution before it can govern. In the past, it had said the parliament could choose between two previous constitutions or draw up a new one.

The National League has said it wishes to adapt the constitution of 1947.

OAU still seeking peace, prosperity

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia, July 13, (AP): When the Organisation of African Unity was born 27 years ago, ANC leader Nelson Mandela had just been imprisoned and many countries on the continent still were ruled by European powers.

Many of the 30 founding fathers of the Pan-Africanist body looked to Eastern Europe for their political models.

Today, Mandela is a free man engaged in talks on the political future of South Africa, and communism has collapsed throughout Eastern Europe, while most of the OAU members' 550 million people are governed by dictators or live in one-party states, and unity has proved elusive.

But the political upheavals in Eastern Europe have clearly touched nerve-ends.

"Africa must go back to its deep-rooted democratic tradition where all public issues were resolved after the usual palaver," said Adebayo Adedeji, the executive secretary for Africa of the UN Economic Commission.

"We are basically a democratic people," he said at the OAU's 26th annual summit, held here over three days this week.

The leaders' closing communiqué Wednesday echoed him.

"We... recommit ourselves to the full democratisation of our societies and to the consolidation of democratic institutions in our countries, taking into account the realities of each of our countries' views," the communiqué said.

Even as the Africans gathered in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, popular upheavals and civil wars were convulsing their countries.

Liberian President Samuel K. Doe, under siege from rebels seeking to seize control, did not attend the conference.

President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, still recovering from riots against food price increase that left 26 people dead last month, stayed away for the first time since he led his country to independence in 1964.

And Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi cut short his visit and flew home on the first day after a weekend of rioting sparked by demands for a multi-party democracy in the one-party state.

When there's trouble at home, African leaders don't usually like to travel.

Yakubu Gowon of Nigeria was toppled in a 1975 coup while he was attending an OAU summit. And Milton Obote of Uganda was overthrown during the 1971 Commonwealth summit in Singapore.

Few of the OAU leaders' dreams have been realised since the organisation was born in a warm glow of pan-Africanism in Addis Ababa.

The original charter pledged action towards creating unity, improving living standards, defending sovereignty and riding the continent of colonialism.

Unity is yet to be achieved. Living standards have plunged. Conflicts continue in Liberia, Uganda, Angola, Ethiopia, Somalia, and Sudan. A common market proposed in 1980 has yet to be formed and a pan-African army to confront South Africa was never set up.

"It was we Africans who raised high the banner of unity well before many regions of the world," Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam told the OAU leaders.

But viewed against... the movement towards harmony and unity among countries in various regions of the world, the pace of progress we are making to achieve continental unity has indeed been very slow," he said.

Disunity aborted two planned summits in Tripoli, Libya, in 1982 after 26 of the by then-50 members voted to include Western Sahara into the organisation without the two-thirds ballots required by the charter.



Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida met Ivorian President Felix Houphouët Boigny on Thursday in Yamoussoukro. The Liberian situation was on the agenda.

Tired Albanians ferry to freedom

First batch evacuated to Italy

BRINDISI, Italy, July 13, (AP): Four shiploads of tired but joyous Albanians reached this Adriatic port today as ferries evacuated about 4,500 asylum seekers from Western embassies in Europe's last hard-line communist state.

The mass evacuation of most of the refugees who had fled in the last two weeks to several embassies in Tirana, the Albanian capital, was expected to ease one of the worst crises to hit the Albanian government in decades.

The first ship, the Espresso Grecia, arrived shortly after 9 am (0700 GMT) after some seven hours crossing the Adriatic Sea with refugees who were put aboard at the Albanian port of Durres.



Youths set fire to cars in Soweto black township outside Johannesburg. (Reuters wirephoto)

Whites renew call for war

After series of bombings

JOHANNESBURG, July 13, (AP): A fugitive right-wing leader has renewed his call for war against both the government and the African National Congress, the independent South African Press Association reported on Wednesday.

The threat follows a series of bombings in recent weeks aimed at blacks and whites opposed to apartheid.

The news agency said the declaration of war was made by Piet Ruidolph in a typewritten note slipped under its office doors on Wednesday evening in downtown Johannesburg. The authenticity of the note could not be confirmed.

Ruidolph, a leader of the right-wing Boer State Party, has been in hiding since he allegedly stole arms and ammunition from air force headquarters in Pretoria in April.

The ANC has called for the formation of defence units for protection against right-wing attacks, reports said yesterday.

The call by Chris Hani, the head of the ANC's military wing, comes in the wake of a spate of bombings aimed at blacks and whites opposed to apartheid.

An organisation called the "White Liberation Army" claimed responsibility for a July 18 bombing in Johannesburg in which 27 blacks were injured.

The group said Hani and the Minister of Law and Order Adrian Vlok were targets for assassination unless 10 detained rightwingers were released immediately.

Squatter-settlement women stripped to the waist in mid-winter temperatures yesterday and ululated their protest against authorities demolishing their

families illegally built shacks in Johannesburg's black satellite township of Soweto.

"You take my home, you take by clothes also," squatter Thandeka Nxumalo, 36, shouted at the workers, throwing an item of underwear at one of the trucks used to raze the flimsy structures.

But the protest by the 20-odd women, in the chill 59 F (10 C) air, failed to stop demolition crews flattening some 60 shacks in the Dobsonville squatter camp, and the workers only cast glances at the shouting and chanting protesters.

Township youths flung a number of stones before being dispersed by tear-gas-firing police, but the crews took less than two hours to level the rickety shacks, erected without permission on land zoned for permanent low-cost housing.

Meanwhile, one of the three leaders of South Africa's white opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Wynand Malan, announced on Wednesday he had resigned as the end of apartheid was approaching.

"What I have been working towards is now becoming reality. The political process is now irreversibly on the way towards a negotiated constitutional settlement," he said in a statement.

Meanwhile, South Africa must check its population growth within the next decade to avert a crisis, Health Minister Rina Venter said on Wednesday.

"If we leave it for the next generation, it could be too late. The generation after us will be able only to judge whether we succeeded or not," Venter said in a statement marking International Population Day.

Moi may resort to genocide: lawyer

US decision condemned

LONDON, July 13, (AP): A Kenyan human rights lawyer who fled his country said today he fears President Daniel Arap Moi's government will resort to massive violence to quash a pro-democracy movement.

"Genocide is likely to come because the government is taking the view that people who are demonstrating are hooligans," said Gibson Kamau Kuria, who fled into London yesterday morning after taking refuge in the US embassy in Nairobi for four days.

"These are not hooligans. They are people seeking the multiparty system," the 43-year-old lawyer said at a news conference.

Kuria was imprisoned without charge for nearly 10 months in 1987.

"Much blood has been shed. I can see more blood being shed," Kuria said. However, he added: "The situation is not hopeless... if changes come."

The government began a crackdown on the pro-democracy movement on Saturday.

At least 23 people have died in clashes between stone-throwing protesters and police.

The demonstrations followed the government's arrests last week of the most prominent supporters of pluralism.

Moi on Tuesday blamed the violence on "hooligans and drug addicts."

Kenya has condemned the US decision to give Kuria asylum and has accused the United States of fuelling the pro-democracy movement and interfering in Kenyan internal affairs.

Kuria said the British government gave him permission to stay in Britain for a week. He said he was on his way to the United States, where he planned to teach law. He said Harvard and Yale Universities have offered him posts.

The lawyer said he would return to Kenya when he felt his life was no longer threatened and when he could resume his law practice, which he said the government has destroyed.

As it docked, a Red Cross nun in a starched white uniform dashed off clutching a newborn baby in an orange blanket, the first refugee to arrive on Italian soil.

"I feel so many emotions, so much liberty," a beaming young woman said in Italian as she got off the ship. Police whisked her away before she could give her name.

Albanians lining the decks of three other ships broke into chants of "Italia, Italia" and "we shall win" in Italian as they arrived late this morning and early in the afternoon.

The second to arrive, the Appia, carried 1,098 Albanians, said the Italian news agency Ansa. It said the Espresso Grecia carried about 950 refugees. By midday, the other two Brindisi-bound ships had reached port, with roughly 2,000 people aboard.

A fifth ferry, commissioned by the French government, was sailing to Marseille with 545 refugees who were staying in the French embassy in Tirana.

Many of the Albanians looked stunned as they left the ships in Brindisi. One man crossed himself as he got off the Appia. On the Espresso Grecia, a man swung a baby in a white sweater up and down in glee.

About 3,200 of the evacuees were taken from the West German mission in Tirana. They were put aboard three trains sent to Brindisi by Germany after a quick breakfast of hot milk and croissants provided by the local government. Each passenger was given a basket of food for the 30-hour journey.

"Everyone off to freedom," a refugee cried to his cheering countrymen who waved from the windows of a departing train.

The second-largest group of asylum-seekers had been staying in the Italian embassy.

Apparently at the last minute, when the Italian, French and German embassies were loading their missions' refugees onto buses for the evacuation, the 29 Albanians who were in the Greek embassy joined the exodus, according to a source in the Greek Foreign Ministry.

The source said the 29 were to be flown later today from Italy to Greece.

The refugees — many of them single men or young families — were sweaty and their clothes were grimy after crowding together for two weeks or more in the small embassies in Tirana.

"We are all feeling glad," said a mining engineer named Muharrem, clutching a foil-wrapped packet of Italian army-issue crackers.

"We are going in the West toward freedom. All the world is going West," he said, grinning.

"We want freedom," said Arjan Xhaferi, 32, carrying his 5-year-old daughter Arissa on his shoulders. "I have sacrificed everything — even my life."

He said he and his family entered the West German embassy in Tirana by scaling the wall in the middle of the night.

The boarding of refugees at the docks in Durres went smoothly, said the Appia's captain, in a ship-to-shore telephone conversation with Ansa.

"It only took us an hour and one quarter, and as far as I can tell, the other four ships were also loaded quickly," Sergio Degli Ivanisovich was quoted as saying.

As they came aboard they asked to be able to wash and get something to eat. They ate up everything on board in almost no time," the captain said.

Some of his passengers were barefoot and some men were shirtless, he said.



A Red Cross nurse holds an Albanian baby who arrived with his refugee parents in Brindisi on Friday. (Rauter wirephoto)



A group of Albanian refugees wave as they arrive by ferryboat from Albania to Brindisi, Italy, on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mayors follow Yeltsin

Soviet Congress closes after picking Central Committee amid major split

MOSCOW, July 13, (AP): The mayors of Moscow and Leningrad today joined other leaders of a reform bloc in quitting the Communist Party in the Soviet Union's first open political split since the time of Lenin.

The dramatic events came as President Mikhail Gorbachev closed a personally victorious 28th party congress with adoption of new party rules and the election of new members of the Central Committee.

"All those who stand for democracy and socialism, we extend a hand and call for their co-operation," Gorbachev said in a six-minute closing address that drew a standing ovation.

Delegates sang the communist anthem, "The Internationale," to close the congress.

Before the congress ended, delegates in a secret ballot approved 412 members of the Central Committee.

The exodus of reformers from the party was begun yesterday by populist Boris Yeltsin, a Gorbachev critic elected president of the Russian Republic in May.

The white-haired Siberian announced to a hushed congress yesterday that he was leaving the Communist Party because his new post meant that he could no longer obey only party policies.

Today, Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov and Leningrad Mayor Anatoly Sobchak issued a statement saying they, too, were quitting the party because of its inability to offer a realistic programme for transition to a new society.

No unwise leaps, vows Ivashko

Gorbachev's loyal deputy moves fast

MOSCOW, July 13, (AP): Mikhail Gorbachev's new right-hand man pledged Thursday to push society forward more rapidly, but acknowledged that other hasty moves have hurt both the Communist Party and the people.

In his first meeting with reporters after being elected Gorbachev's communist party deputy, in charge of the party's day-to-day affairs, Vladimir A. Ivashko showed himself to be a loyal and emphatic supporter of the Soviet leader's policies.

Endorsed by Gorbachev, Ivashko, 58, swapped party traditionalist Yegor K. Ligachev for the party's No. 2 job in balloting at the 28th party congress.

He said he had only learned Tuesday that he was Gorbachev's choice for the deputy post. He said he hasn't had a chance to map out with the Soviet leader his exact responsibilities.

"I am for moving forward fast," Ivashko told his first new conference after the ballot results were announced. "I see no other option. There is no way back."

He said he would try to avoid a split in the party ranks by trying to find room for people of widely varying points of view.

But Ivashko said the party had to avoid repeating the plethora of mistakes it made in the first years of Gorbachev's rule. He also expressed support for perestroika, Gorbachev's programme



Ivashko, who was elected Gorbachev's deputy, appears with delegates at the Soviet Communist Party congress last week. Gorbachev proposed Ivashko as his deputy. (Rauter wirephoto)

of social and economic reforms. "I am against ill-conceived leaps — forward, backwards, sideways," he said. "Perestroika proves that we have made many erroneous decisions, quickly designed to solve all problems."

He cited the country's 1985 drive against alcoholism, the first large-scale reform effort tried after Gorbachev became party leader.

Troops fire on Armenian militants killing three in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW, July 13, (AP): Three people died when Interior Ministry troops fired on Armenian militants who attacked a convoy Wednesday in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan, the Tass news agency said Thursday.

It said heavily armed Armenian militants stopped the convoy, guarded by five husloads of Interior Ministry troops, and fired point-blank at the trucks and bus. The soldiers returned the fire, Tass said.

The news agency said two people died in the exchange of fire and a woman passenger on the bus later died in a hospital of gunshot wounds.

According to the Tass report, the convoy of 16 trucks and a bus carrying Azerbaijani passengers was attacked near the village of Charekhar in Nagorno-Karabakh, the predominantly Christian Armenian enclave that is located in and administered by Azerbaijan.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, informed of the attack while presiding over the 28th Communist Party Congress, told delegates that ethnic bloodshed must come to an end.

Six of the jets have landed in foreign airports, mainly in Nordic countries. Five have landed at Soviet airports. All the hijackers have been arrested.

What right has West to teach democracy?

Mandela praises Kenya



Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi greets South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela (left) and wife Winnie upon their arrival in Nairobi on July 11. (Rauter wirephoto)

NAIROBI, July 13, (UPI): Black South African leader Nelson Mandela praised Kenya's contribution to the struggle of his countrymen against apartheid government at a thinly attended rally in the capital Nairobi today.

He said white people had no right to teach Africans about democracy because of the way in which the British dealt with advocates of Kenya's independence movement in the 1950s and early 1960s.

His speech, which praised President Daniel Arap Moi in particular for his support of the anti-apartheid movement, came at the end of a turbulent two weeks in the East African country.

The government has detained 17 outspoken advocates of multi-party democracy, been criticized by the United States and other governments and withstood five days of fierce rioting and looting in Nairobi and provincial towns, sparked by a pro-multi-party demonstration last Saturday.

The 71-year-old deputy leader of the African National Congress stayed off Kenya's internal affairs, however, referring only indirectly to criticisms and expressions of concern from the United States, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the United Kingdom.

Honecker allowed Libyan bombing

WEST BERLIN, July 13, (AP): East Germany's ousted Communist Party boss and his secret police chief allowed Libyan commandos to carry out a fatal discotheque bombing, a newspaper reported.

The bombing, which killed two US soldiers and a Turkish woman, prompted the US air force raid on Tripoli in 1986.

The report by the West German Die Welt was the latest in a string of disclosures on the alleged terrorist connections of Communist Party leader Erich Honecker and Erich Mielke, who headed the notorious Stasi secret police force.

According to the report, Mielke knew on March 20, 1986, that Libyan commandos were about to attack a US target in West Berlin, but did nothing to stop it.

Sixteen days later, a bomb at the La Belle discotheque killed the soldiers and Turkish woman and injured more than 200 others.

"On March 24, the Ministry of State Security (the Stasi) drafted a written report for Honecker. The response was not to do anything but rather to let the Libyans do as they pleased," Die Welt said.

A Stasi colonel who tried to stop the La Belle bombing was fired on the spot, the paper said.

The incident provoked a US bombing raid on the Libyan cities of Benghazi and Tripoli, including an attack on the heavily guarded compound of Libyan leader Col Muammar Khaddafi.

In an article published in its Thursday edition, Die Welt said Stasi archives gave a detailed account of preparations for the La Belle bombing.

On March 25, 1986, a man claiming to be a diplomatic courier for the Libyan People's Bureau, or embassy, in East Berlin, drove into West Berlin in an embassy car carrying seven grenades, three automatic pistols and two semi-automatic rifles.

The driver, identified as Musbah Al Albani, carried a note with the addresses of three discotheques, including La Belle. Stasi records even contained the car's licence number, CD 68-20.

However, the attack was postponed because of inadequate planning.

The driver travelled to West Berlin once more on March 30 but returned on April 4, the eve of the La Belle bombing.

On April 5, the Stasi monitored a telephone call to the home of Yusef Salam, a Palestinian it knew under the code name of "Nuri."

Immediately after the call, in which Salam was told "it hasn't worked out yet," he met with a Libyan embassy official and drove to West Berlin.

The La Belle bomb went off around 5 am that morning.

"Recognising all the responsibility before the people and history, we have taken a decision ... to leave the Communist Party in order to help create a multiparty system," said their statement, released at the Moscow city council.

By quitting the party, Yeltsin became the first non-communist leader of Russia in 72 years of Soviet power.

Russia is the largest of the Soviet Union's 15 republics and is the country's heart, including Moscow.

As the silver-haired Yeltsin strode forcefully up the centre aisle in the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses yesterday after resigning, delegates shouted "shame" and whistled derisively. A few delegates applauded.

Gorbachev had no reaction, except to say that Yeltsin's decision would not be discussed at the congress.

Later, Vyacheslav Shostakovskiy, a leader of the Democratic Reform Bloc, told the congress that he and other progressive delegates were leaving the party and would form their own independent organisation.

"I am empowered to declare a division in the Communist Party, and our intention to form an independent, democratic, parliamentary party," Shostakovskiy said, announcing the first split in the Communist Party since 1921.

Another delegate, Vladimir Polokholo, today announced the formation of another new bloc, called "Democratic Unity in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union," designed to chip away at the party's traditionalist bastion.

"The threat of a mass exodus from the party has not been removed," he told the congress.

It was not clear how many members the new bloc might attract, although within 30 minutes of his speech, Polokholo had collected the signatures of 96 sympathetic delegates.

Some members of the original reform bloc said they were going to remain communists.

"I see a possibility of a democratic transformation of the party," said Alexei Alyshovich, a Democratic Platform member from Leningrad, who is staying in the party.

He said it was necessary for people like him to remain in the party in order to promote democratic ideas within the party.

Vladimir Filin, a spokesman for the Reform Bloc, estimated that only about 15 per cent of Democratic Platform members would remain in the Communist Party.



Democratic Platform leader Vladimir Shostakovskiy talks to journalists on Thursday as he leaves the Soviet Communist Party congress. (Reuters wirephoto)

Electronic target training device devised

Product of Kuwaiti-Egyptian company

CAIRO, July 13. (Kuna): An electronic firing field, produced by a Kuwaiti-Egyptian company was inaugurated yesterday, in the presence of the Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri, Abu Taleb and the Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo Abdul Razzaq Al Kandari.

After a short briefing on the potentials of the field, the first of its kind in the Middle East, Abu Taleb said "this field proves that Arab potential is capable of embarking the Arab nation onto a new stage of advanced military manufacturing,

equally-efficient to foreign equipment and may exceed them."

Board chairman of the Egypt Company for Specialised Electronics and Training Equipment Ahmed Sayed Ahmed Nasser told Kuna that his company, an affiliate of the Kuwait-based Public Investment Authority, has carried out the manufacturing and assembling of the electronic firing fields and also the training of cadres to operate and maintain these fields.

Nasser said that the electronic firing fields are especially designed to improve

the marksmanship of troops and also to teach them the skill of dealing with the enemy, by training them on shooting at moving and stationary targets.

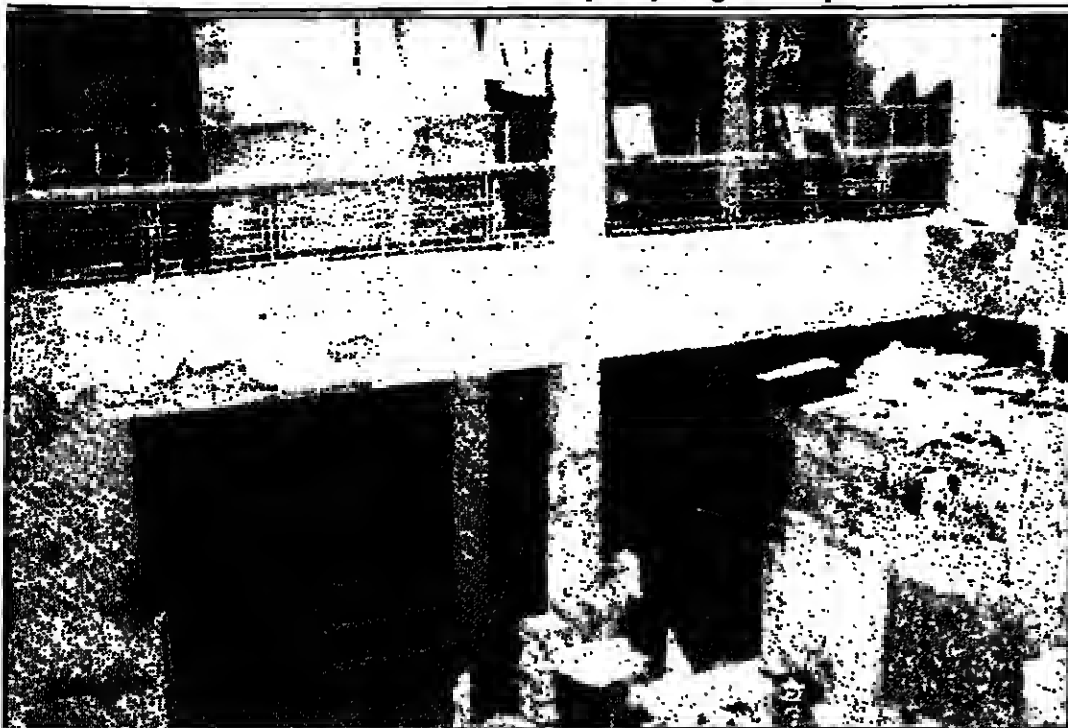
He noted that the company manufactures a group of individual electronic targets to be used in closed fields for the training of anti-terrorism and VIP bodyguards.

The company's director-general and board member Mohammed Hussein Abu Al Saud, in an interview with Kuna, com-

mented the role of Kuwait in bringing this company to life.

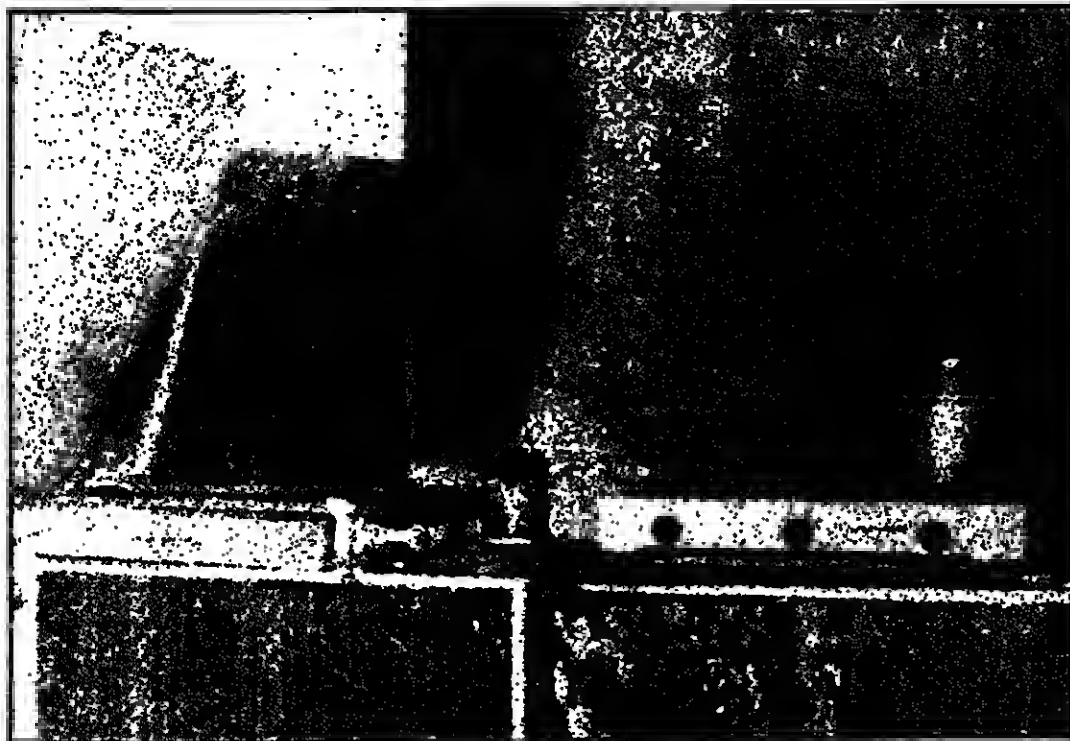
Abu Al Saud noted that the manufacture of electronic firing fields, which were monopolised by the West, are now being produced by sheer Arab hands, beginning with design and ending with assembly.

Emphasising the importance of this product to Arab armies, he said that the system is only one in the Arab world which uses the Arabic language in dealing with the computer.



Deplorable conditions

Bachelors predominate over a quarter of the Khaitan area, especially the area situated near the international airport. The pictures above explicitly show the deplorable conditions that these bachelors live in. Most of them live over three to four to a room with a booth for a kitchen or a bathroom. The area is in urgent need of investigation by the relevant authorities.



Hounds may be used Clampdown on smugglers planned

ASSISTANT Director for Airport Affairs Abdul Razzaq Ahmad Al Obaid has said that customs staff undertake huge responsibilities. These responsibilities are of especially important because of the increase in volume of seasonal passengers, he said.

Obaid told a local daily that the General Customs Department has assigned greater numbers of inspectors to facilitate the flow of passengers and planned facilities will not interfere with customs security safeguards.

He said that the department plans to use hounds in the field of customs inspection. He added that the planned use of hounds will be implemented in all customs centres, in co-operation with the relevant authorities.

Obaid pointed out that the department is quite up-to-date on all techniques and tricks used by smugglers to bring contraband into the country and that it keeps enriching the knowledge and skills of its staff through specialised intensive training, which involves the recruitment of qualified Kuwaiti cadre who receive specialised training in anti-smuggling techniques.

He expressed high pride over the current capabilities of the customs inspectors whose skill and competence are the result of valuable experience accumulated over long years of field work.

Upgrade
He said that the department also keeps upgrading its equipment and technological apparatus and introduces more anti-smuggling systems, as well as taking part in Arab, regional and international anti-smuggling conference for maximum utilisation of exchanged expertise.

He said that the information obtained from such inter-

national events will be fed to inspection staff through specialised training courses or circulars, which coupled with constant co-operation with security staff, will enable the department to protect the national interest of the country, and save society from the pernicious effect of smuggling operations.

Obaid pointed out that 179 smuggling attempts were foiled by customs inspectors at Kuwait International Airport during 1989.

He called on all passengers, departing or arriving, to be on full alert against being victimised by experienced smugglers, and urged them to comply with the official list of banned items, whether foods or others. He added that customs officers endeavoured hard to serve public interest out of a position of religious and national responsibility.

Increase
Meanwhile a report issued by the Directorate General of the Civil Aviation-DGCA- showed that Kuwait International Airport witnessed a noticeable increase in airline movement, passengers and air freight during the last month as compared to June last year. The report said that there were 2,356 regular flights from and to the airport marking an increase of 9 per cent. The increase came due to extra KAC flights to meet demand of passengers beside some foreign airlines that ran their planes to Kuwait for the first time. The report added that there were 588 extra flights from and to the airport last month marking an increase of 46 per cent. The report referred the increase of extra flights to the end of exams in schools and the beginning of the annual holiday of teachers as well as pilgrimage season and Eid Al Adha holiday.

Velayati's Kuwait trip described as 'good start'

ABU DHABI, July 13. (Kuna): Iranian Ambassador to the UAE Mohammed Abadi yesterday described the recently-concluded visit of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati to Kuwait as a "good start."

Speaking at a press conference, on the occasion of thanking countries which helped Iran during the recent earthquake disaster, Ambassador Abadi said that the drive to resolve the crisis between his country and Iraq began after presidents of the two countries Hashemi Rafsanjani and Saddam Hussein exchanged messages and also after negotiations between the two countries' foreign ministers.

Replying to a question by Kuna, the top Iranian diplomat noted that the implementation of UN Resolution 598 will start with an Iraq pullout from Iranian territories, to be coupled or followed by the release of prisoners of war (PoWs).

Referring to Arab-Iranian relations, Abadi said that his country considers the Palestinian question as one of the top priorities on its foreign policy list.

He added that the Israelis are having sleepless nights over the recent Arab-Iranian rapprochement, warning that Tel Aviv will seek to undermine ties between Tehran and other Arab states.

As for relations between Iran and Egypt, Abadi said that he has no knowledge of contacts between the two countries at the present, but affirmed that his country will take part in the Islamic Foreign Ministers' Conference, to be hosted by Cairo late this month, at the level of experts.

Turning to the aid Iran received from several countries, the ambassador said that the Iranian people deeply appreciate this assistance, especially from neighbouring states.

Reuter said yesterday a newspaper close to Iranian President Rafsanjani described Foreign Minister Velayati's just-concluded visit to Kuwait as a turning point in the region.

"Co-operation, co-ordination and solidarity among regional countries can definitely enhance the position of Muslim nations vis-a-vis a united Europe and this ever-changing world," the English-language Tehran Times said. Some diplomats said Kuwait-Iran relations could be inhibited by the emirate's traditional links with fellow Gulf Arab states.

Despite the inherited problems, the view from both Tehran and Kuwait is that relations are moving back to the good old days that existed until the Shah of Iran was ousted 11 years ago.

The fact that Iran and Iraq are now talking to each other in a bid to resolve outstanding issues of the Gulf War has acted as a catalyst in Kuwait-Iranian relations.

Better contract opportunities envisaged in Saudi Arabia

SAUDI ARABIA has been able to achieve a higher rate of development and has been able to solve inflation problems during the previous development plan. The plan enjoyed modern development essentials like roads, ports, airports and communications networks and has achieved strong social prosperity by providing schools, health services, and social and cultural utilities to the people of the country.

The current development plan of the kingdom has an estimated spending rate of more than \$300 billion to fully utilise investments aimed at comprehensive development objectives.

These objectives include development of industrial projects like the ones in Jubail and Yanbu areas in the field of petrochemicals and other petroleum industries, improving living standards in towns, improving agricultural production, to reach self-sufficiency, putting emphasis on the expansion of education, professional training, and technical manpower in the

kingdom, and developing operational and maintenance fields.

Saudi national consultant companies and offices will play a major role in planning these projects. These companies will be protected from competition by international consultation companies who previously dominated oil transactions and returns in the area during the past decade at a total estimated at \$55.1 million.

One well-known Saudi construction engineer, Abdul Aziz Abdullah Abu Al Khil spoke about the role of national consultation offices and Saudi engineers in facing upcoming challenges. He said that the policy carried out recently regarding Saudi consultancies aims at giving such offices full responsibility for projects. He added that this will directly affect foreign consultation companies since Saudi consultants play a direct role.

He pointed out that the oil market fluctuation will only affect one group of con-

tractors which appeared during the oil leap and the get rich quick era. He indicated that this group was not built on strong financial bases but rather on temporary fundamentals operating in accordance with market fluctuations. He added that contractors who have had long experience in this field will not be affected by the new situation because they were not forced to fire labourers and technicians in order to stay in business. He stated that these contractors have attained enough experience to stay away from the fluctuations in the oil market. He said that such contractors will carry full responsibility on completing fundamental preparations for the coming plan.

Abu Al Khil proposed that temporary contractors having relatively short experience should gather in groups so they can support each other according to their specialities.

He added that the Arab Contracting Company is a good example in unity. This

company was formed to face up to foreign competition in the market. He indicated that the previous situation when Arab and national contractors were dominated by foreign consultation companies was due to the fact that most contractors lacked trained manpower and technicians. He added that a well qualified and trained manpower is considered to be the basis of any project.

He also pointed out that some of the Arab consultation companies accepted small margins of profit by ineffectively taking part in projects along with foreign companies.

With respect to the future of the contracting market in the area, Abu Al Khil said that it will bring better opportunities. He added that honest contractors will have stronger opportunities for participation in future projects. He stressed that the quality of maintenance at previous projects will also play a big role in the selection of these contractors.

Ration cards may be withdrawn soon

Prices almost similar at co-ops

SUPPLY centres in the various governorates are witnessing a decline in the number of consumers. Some consumers have said that officials may cancel the distribution of foods through ration cards. Some of the items previously provided by ration cards like lentils and tomato paste have already been withdrawn. Subsequently the subsidy for certain staples sold at co-operative societies has been cancelled. A number of consumers interviewed by a local daily said that ration cards have an effective role in keeping the price down of many staple foodstuffs. They added that the minor difference between prices of rationed foods and prices at co-operative societies lowered the value of ration cards.

Ibrahim Al Khateeb said that previously he bought most of the foods allowed on his ration card

before the withdrawal of tomato paste and lentils. He added that he prefers buying sugar from co-op's since the prices there are similar to that at the ration centres. He pointed out that the quality of rice at ration shops is mostly bad which forces many consumers to buy their rice needs from co-op's even though it is more expensive.

Saree Mohammed said that he depends on ration centres in covering his household needs particularly rice, sugar, and milk. He indicated that he receives his share of goods regularly every month and therefore feels that it would be a great loss for him if ration cards were cancelled. He feels that if this happens prices at co-op's and local markets will eventually rise out of the reach of the common man. He said that ration cards play a role in preventing market prices of such

materials from rising. Hasan Husain Jaber said that buying food on his ration card saves him a lot of money particularly with rice since the price at the ration centre is almost half as that of the co-op. He doesn't feel that ration cards will be cancelled since many individuals depend on them particularly those who have to support large families.

Another consumer indicated that ration cards are not useful adding that the quality of food supplied is not particularly good. He said sugar prices are the same everywhere and the consumer gets a better deal at the co-operatives due to the freshness of items.

Another consumer stated that ration cards are not necessary for small families. She added that only very large families depend on ration cards.

Benazir

(Continued from Page 1)

Crown Prince have accepted her invitation to visit Pakistan shortly. Benazir, who is currently in HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince, said she held "detailed and fruitful talks" on bilateral issues and expects stronger ties between the two countries and was "deeply satisfied" with the outcome of her talks with Kuwaiti leaders.

Kuwait was also briefed on latest Afghan mujahideen efforts to set up a broad-based, credible and representative Shura and interim government." Benazir said: "In our judgement, (it) would constitute a major milestone in the search of a political solution of the continuing crisis in Afghanistan."

On Mideast, she called on the Islamic ummah to respond to the new danger and the serious threat to peace posed by Israel, which is "returning to aggressive and expansionist policies." She said Pakistan shares "a common perception" with Kuwait on the need for Islamic solidarity, regional peace and stability.

On Pakistan's nuclear capability, she said Western media reports "are without foundation." She admitted Pakistan has a "modest nuclear programme" and believes in the principles of non-proliferation. She also said that her country would sign a non-proliferation treaty if India also did so.

She expressed the hope that there could be "further progress" with India in other fields related to nuclear activity, including a regional test ban treaty or simultaneous signing of a non-proliferation treaty by both India and Pakistan.

Pakistan has agreed with India not to attack each other's nuclear facilities. Benazir said Pakistan has also suggested to India "a set of proposals, where we can ensure a region free of nuclear weapons." Kuwait and Pakistani viewpoints are identical concerning the issues discussed during the visit to Kuwait by Pakistan's premier, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

In a statement to Kuwait New Agency (Kuna) the spokesman said Benazir was received by HH the Amir and talks dealt with bilateral

and international issues in the light of Kuwait's presidency of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

The spokesman emphasised that the viewpoints are identical towards issues discussed and that the two sides stressed their determination to develop fraternal relations in a way that realises the interests of the two Muslim peoples.

The spokesman added that official talks were held at Bayan Palace headed by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah and Benazir.

The spokesman added that bilateral issues were tackled and the two sides emphasised the importance of co-operation between the two countries and their determination to develop them to realise the mutual benefits.

The two sides also emphasised the importance of encouraging exchange of visits by specialised delegations in all fields of co-operation.

The talks also dealt with Islamic and regional issues and both sides agreed on the importance of collective efforts to solve them through peaceful means, on the basis of justice and right to ensure security and stability and to provide the chance for better future for the peoples of the region.

The spokesman added that both Kuwait and Pakistan have voiced satisfaction for the recent talks held between Iran and Iraq as a starting point for reaching a settlement for the suspended issues on the basis of the legitimate rights of each side.

Kuwait and Pakistan paid special attention to the Palestinian crisis in its capacity as a central issue for the Islamic world and emphasised the principles that guarantees the Palestinian people their right to self-determination and statehood on the basis of the legitimate rights that had been and are still being emphasised at the international forums.

He added that the two sides described the ongoing Jewish immigration to the occupied Palestinian territories as a dangerous conspiracy

that aims at liquidating the Palestinian people, and that threatens security and peace in the region as a whole, and poses dangers that would end all peace efforts.

As for the big change in the international relations toward detente, Kuwait and Pakistan expressed hope that this situation would be of positive results on all peoples of the Third World so as humanity can step into a phase of real co-operation for a better world in which justice and security prevail.

The spokesman also said that Benazir invited Sheikh Saad to visit Pakistan and the invitation was accepted and the date of the visit would be decided at the appropriate time.

From the Kuwaiti side, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed Al Jaber, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Aboud, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Dr Abdul Rahman Al Awadi and Minister of Higher Education Dr Ali Al Shamlan took part in the talks.

Morocco King, Hassan II met in Rabat today with Benazir who arrived last night on a visit to Morocco as part of the current tour to a number of Arab states.

The meeting was attended by the Moroccan Prime Minister Iz Uddine Laraki, Foreign Minister, Abdullatif Filali and top Pakistani officials accompanying Benazir.

A leading senator has called for the United States and the Soviet Union to exert their influence to prevent any warfare from breaking out between Pakistan and India over the Kashmir region.

Sen. Alan Cranston suggested that a joint US approach with the Soviet Union over "whatever influence can be brought to bear" on India and Pakistan.

A US-Soviet combination for peace might work, Cranston told reporters, because America has "been thought to have been closer to Pakistan of late and the Soviet Union is thought to have been closer to India."

Day by Day (Continued from Page 1)

c) goods are less than what is said in the documents. In the event of (b) or (c), the trader is notified of the discrepancy in view of the related documents. The matter is then referred to the Legal Affairs Division to initiate the necessary procedure. KAC will issue a certificate to the importer, certifying the deficiency in weight or quantity.

All parcels, of any type, are inspected and opened in the presence of the owner or his representative. They are also closed in his presence after inspection.

So, where is the fault, as claimed, in the security system? The customs procedure is systematic and based on a sound system. A thorough investigation is done to punish the violations, if we discover any. The Kuwaiti penal code takes care of any violations; things are straightened out immediately.

We would like to point out that the claims made by the writer are conjectures and heresy, without referring to any definite case.

The General Customs Department, however, always welcomes constructive criticism, based on fact and good intent.

We extend an invitation to the author of the article to visit our warehouse at the Aviation Customs Department to see for himself the application of international standards at this facility. He can also verify the security and customs procedures implemented to guard imported goods. He can also see the other facilities at the warehouse, where frozen goods and other valuables are preserved.

Delegation to bring back teachers from Egypt

THE Assistant Undersecretary for General Education Affairs at Kuwait's Ministry of Education Saad Al Rifai will visit Cairo on the 15th of this month as the head of an educational delegation grouping the selection committee at the ministry Mohammed Al Roumi and the employment controller Abdusheeb Hussain.

A local daily reported that the delegation will interview a number of teachers in Egypt to bring them back to Kuwait to join the various Ministry of Education schools.

Meanwhile, the cultural attaché at the Kuwait embassy in Cairo Dr Abdullah Mohareb said that these interviews will be held as of the 17th and will last up to 25th.

Weather

TEMPERATURE will remain normal with moderate to fresh north easterly wind.
State of sea: Moderate
High water: 3.30 am, 3.00 pm
Low water: 8.00 am, 8.30 pm
Sunrise: 4.56 am
Sunset: 6.51 pm
Maximum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 48°C (118°F)
Ahmad: 45°C (113°F)
Fahala: 46°C (115°F)
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 47°C (117°F)
Ahmad: 46°C (115°F)
Fahala: 47°C (117°F)
Minimum temperatures recorded:
Kuwait: 32°C (90°F)
Ahmad: 34°C (92°F)
Fahala: 30°C (86°F)
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 26 per cent
Ahmad: 26 per cent
Fahala: 31 per cent

New recruitment procedures at Kuwait's CSC

Top priority to nationals

NEW rules and procedures governing recruitment at government authorities have been issued recently by Kuwait's Civil Service Commission (CSC), a local daily reported.

It added that undersecretary of the Civil Service Commission Abdulaziz Al Zaben issued a decision which is currently in circulation among the ministers

and state authorities indicating that any ministry or government authority should consult the CSC prior to employing any employee.

The applicant authority should specify the nature of the post in order to enable the CSC to discuss with this authority the possibility of moving an employee from

another ministry or authority to occupy the required post.

The circular said that in case an employee could not be relocated to fill in the existing vacancy, the Civil Service Commission will nominate any Kuwaiti from those who are registered with the CSC to fill the relevant vacancy.

Alternatively, the CSC will announce

the need of respective authority for a Kuwaiti employee with the required conditions.

The circular stated that in case of no Kuwaiti applied for the announced post, the Civil Service Commission will inform the respective authority on the CSC approval allowing such an authority to appoint an expatriate to occupy the

required post. Such an appointment will be in accordance with special contract terms and no end of service gratuity will be given for allied technical posts including typists.

It added that, however, the Civil Service Commission will provide the applicant authority with appointment conditions in each individual case.

Action Line

I HAVE been working for a company on visa No. 18. Recently, I married in India. Is there any possibility of bringing my wife on a dependent's visa? Is there any salary restriction to get a family visa? I heard that salary restrictions have been lifted? If so, what are the provisions?

A. Hameed.

TO OUR knowledge, the salary limit stands. An expatriate working in the private sector must earn KD650 and in the public sector KD450 to be eligible to apply for a family visa. If your salary is KD650 or above, you can apply for a dependent's visa for your wife and if your application is accepted, she can come here. If you earn under KD650, then you can call her on a visit for a month. There is no other alternative to get family visa.

I AM a Filipina working in Kuwait as a domestic helper. I'll complete my contract in December, 1990. My employer did not give me seven months' salary and I want to transfer to another employer. What can I do about my salary?

R.M.

OUR lawyer Khaled Taher says the only way to get your salary is through a court of law. He advised you to file a case against your employer, asking for the back pay and air ticket to return to your country. During the court case, you can get a permission to stay in the country through certificates issued by the court.

I AM working in a catering company. I've heard that girls under 30 are not entitled to get visas due to a new law. Has this law come into effect?

P.S.

KHALED Taher told us that there is no such age limit in the residence or immigration law. The law itself does not mention the age limit, nor has it been included in any clause of the law. He said it could be an "internal ministry procedure."

I HAVE been living in Kuwait for the past 11 years. My source of income has not progressed more than KD120. Although I have good experience in salesmanship, storekeeping and cashier. How can I increase my source of income, legally, according to Kuwaiti labour laws.

A reader.

SALARIES, as you must know from your experience of living in this country, are governed by the market rate. Although there is no fixed pay scale, salaries for certain jobs is fixed by the current rates. As you are in sales, it would be possible for you to get commission on sales. Alternately, you could train for another higher-paid job and earn more. Pragmatically, what a person depends on such variables as education, experience and individual initiative and hard work. Despite working hard, if you have not been able to earn more, you should consider changing your career and opt for one that pays more.

If you have a problem drop in a line 20 to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or Fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.



New Water Games City

An agreement has been signed by TEC for the establishment of a water games city near Kuwait Towers. Engineer Adel Al Fahd, director of projects at the company said the project is the first of its kind in the Gulf and depends basically on the various capabilities provided by water which could be put to use. The city will be one of the most attractive areas and will grab the attention of people of all ages, Fahd said.

He explained further that the project will contain several water games like the smooth downhill which include 5 different baths, river rapids, the flood, the Kamikaze which is a very fast downhill ride provided by a strong water current, and the lazy river which will consist of a circular water bath, 240 metres long. Water in the river will be operated by

pumps.

A wide area in the Water Games City project will be for children, and will consist of swimming pools, and games. Children's games area will include, the octopus, the mushroom, the slider and the frog. In order to create a cool atmosphere the city will include landscaping projects like artificial lakes containing fountains and artificial rocks and trees. One of the lakes will be constructed with a specific depth to permit swimming.

Kuwait Towers, however, will maintain its original features and will consist of a large number of shaded areas. The project will be divided into three main parts, the water games area, the artificial lakes and reservoirs area, and the children games area. Picture shows a comprehensive view of the project.

Kuwait weather reports genuine, says official

Dust time here

DIRECTOR of the Meteorological Department, Abdullah Al Asfour has emphasised that temperature reports published by the department are true figures. He indicated that the highest record temperature ever reached in Kuwait was 51 degrees centigrade in the shade. The highest ever recorded temperature in the world was 58 degrees centigrade in the shade in Aziziya town in Libya. The second highest temperature in the world was recorded in Death Valley in California at 57 degrees Centigrade.

Asfour said that meteorologists deal with the atmospheric strata which covers hundreds of thousands of square kilometres and this sometimes causes them to make mistakes in their approximations. He pointed out that Kuwait weather forecasts are 80 per cent accurate.

The Meteorology Department in Kuwait was established in 1953 and consisted of only one centre. The department witnessed rapid development until 1962 when it became a member of the International Meteorology Organisation. The Meteorology Department is affiliated to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation which is currently operating eleven meteorology stations, with a total of 150 employees.

Asfour indicated that one of the important authorities which the Meteorological Department provides services for is air navigation affairs to ensure the safety of airlines and passengers. Airlines departing Kuwait International Airport are provided with weather maps indicating the speed and direction of clouds and winds in addition to weather forecasts. Arriving airlines are also provided with this information.

The Meteorological Department also provides several other parties like Kuwait University, Ministry of Electricity and Water, Coast Guard, the sea club and the coastal station with mon-

thly and annual weather forecast reports, Asfour said.

Other authorities receiving weather reports from the department are represented by the General Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources, and Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research.

Weather research is conducted upon request from some companies like insurance companies, construction companies and air-conditioning and heating companies.

Kuwait like any other arid territory, suffers dust storms throughout the year, particularly during summer. Huge amounts of sand and dust are carried by north-southerly winds to Kuwait and other neighbouring states. One of the most dusty months in Kuwait occurs in June and July during which dust time forms more than 50 per cent of total hours.

Dust has increased during the last decade compared with previous decades, Asfour said.

Policeman rapes maid, gets seven years RI

A POLICEMAN was sentenced to jail for seven years with hard labour for raping a pregnant maid who was detained in the police station for illicit pregnancy.

The court was told that the culprit was working in the same station where the maid was detained. On the night of the incident the defendant ordered his colleagues to go out on patrol and then proceeded to sexually assault the detained maid. In the morning the maid told another detained person in an adjacent cell of the incident, who confirmed that he had seen the defendant commit his crime.

The maid was urged to complain to the chief of the station of the incident.

The court was also told that the defendant had acknowledged before his officers that he and his colleagues had sexually assaulted the victim. The chief at the station and the defendant's colleagues however testified that the culprit had confessed to committing his crime while his colleagues were on patrol.

In light of this testimony the court decided to sentence the culprit to the aforementioned judgement and ignored the claim of the defence counsel that the defendant was psychologically ill.

9,305 tons of spoilt food seized

KUWAIT Municipality Foods Department seized a total of 9,305 tons of foodstuff during the last year. The foods were seized during department inspection campaigns on shops, restaurants and border centres, in addition to the airport.

The local food market witnessed a clear activity of food influx. Food imports via sea, land and air to the country reached an estimate of 500 thousand tons. This indicates an increase in consumption. The foods department supervised movements of food commodities from manufacturers until it reaches Kuwait where they were stored or put on display for sale in local markets.

The foods department at Kuwait Municipality has several duties which include inspecting and examining food imports and their validity for human use, examining frozen mutton, and fish, following up imported foods, issuing health licenses for shops, and inspection on foods at the local market.

Disappearing trick

A KUWAITI woman Shiekha F. notified Fabeel police station that an unknown person offered to help her achieve her formalities at a bank. She handed him KD 1500, civil card and the bank's form. But he took the money and disappeared.



Haj injured

A Saudi medical worker helps to carry an injured Turkish pilgrim aboard a plane yesterday at Jeddah airport. 32 injured Turkish pilgrims were taken to Turkey by hospital planes. A tunnel stampede in Makkah July 2 caused the death of 1,426 people including Turks.

British pilgrims among dead

LONDON, July 13. (Kuna): The foreign office in London said today that it had been "warned" by Saudi Arabia that "a small number" of British Muslim pilgrims may have died in the tragedy which took place during the Haj in which more than 1,400 people died.

The London Times newspaper said today that fears were mounting that a London couple may have been among the dead people following the tragedy. The paper said that Yusuf Janjua, 38 a dentist and his wife Anjum, 32 have not been in touch since the tragedy.

Man gets 2 years for raping Filipina

THE Criminal Court has sentenced a man to two years in jail for raping a Filipina. The court heard that the victim was an employee at a photographer's shop in one of the local hotels and that her only means of transport was the bus.

On the day of the incident, the victim was waiting for the bus under the burning sun, when a car driven by the defendant suddenly pulled up near her.

She told the court that the defendant got off and asked to see her identity card claiming that he was a police officer. She failed to produce her ID, and he offered to drive her to her employer's house where she said she had forgotten it.

He then drove her away from the urban area and swerved into a by-road and stopped at a construction site, where he raped her on the back seat of the car.

He then left her there and drove off, but she managed to jot down the number of the car. When the police arrested the owner, the victim could not recognise him, but he said that a friend of his had on the day of the incident borrowed the car to buy them dinner and claimed that he had raped a Filipina inside it.



NC members honoured

The social committee of Kuwait Journalists Society held Thursday night a party in honour of the Speaker of the National Council Abdul Aziz Al Masaed, Minister of State for NC Affairs Dr Bader Al Yacoub, and members Dr Abdulla Al Omar, Mohammad Al Barjes, Ahmad Behbehani and Kazem Bu Abbas for being elected members of the NC.

The party was attended by the assistant undersecretary of Information Ministry for Television Affairs Rida Al Feeli, acting assistant undersecretary for foreign information Amal Al Hamad, editors of local news papers, and information attaches of Iraqi embassy and French embassy and a number of journalists working in Kuwait.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir's speech lauded: A Lebanese daily yesterday hailed the address of HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah before the opening session of the Kuwaiti National Council.

The daily Al Anwar quoted diplomatic sources here as describing the speech of the Amir as a historical document demonstrating Sheikh Jaber's vast political experience and frugality.

The paper further said that by opening the first session of the National Council, Kuwait resumed its leading role in political life prior to restoring parliamentary life which never really disappeared from the Kuwaiti arena despite all regional changes, pressures and events.

They said with the election of the National Council, Kuwait emerged victorious thanks to the polling of self-restraint exercised by the state which opened the way for all to take part in fair elections within the framework of united Kuwaiti family. (Kuna)

Kuwait-European investments: Chairman of the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce, Michel Habib-Delencle today said joint Kuwaiti-European investments in industrial projects in the Arab world provide mutual benefits for all parties.

Writing in the "Revue des Echanges Franco-Arab" monthly, Habib-Delencle said Kuwait's joint investments with Western partners, especially France, can take place in Egypt, Yemen, or North Africa, countries that need export industries.

He said Kuwaiti investments serve as the guarantee for Western industries in these countries where labour cost is low and natural resources are rich.

The chairman added that such industrial projects in these countries would bring them deeply needed hard currency and provide work opportunities for the skilled labour force.

Habib-Delencle said the joint investment project have been discussed in meetings on Kuwaiti and French businessmen and in inter-governmental economic commissions and some will soon be put into action. (Kuna)

Quarain environment issues discussed: State Minister for Housing Affairs Yahya Fahd Al Smaii today conferred with secretary of the Council for Environment Protection Ibrahim Mohammed Haday in presence of other experts.

The meeting reviewed specialised reports on environmental issues related to Block 10 of Al Qurain housing project.

The minister said the Public Housing Authority was aware of the waste problem in the area and therefore made no plans for constructions in the site. (Kuna)

CBK governor for Malaysia: Governor of the Central Bank of Kuwait Sheikh Salem Abdel Aziz Al Sabah leaves here today for Malaysia on an official visit.

Sheikh Salem's visit is in response to an official invitation by his Malaysian counterpart within the framework of boosting ties between the two institutions.

Haj transgressions committee: The Higher Committee for Haj Affairs at the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs will reportedly consider the complaints lodged against some Haj caravan organisers who are cited for transgression against regulations and those that failed to fulfill their obligations.

The committee is to meet under the chairmanship of the ministry undersecretary Dr Ali Al Zumai, in the presence of assistant under-secretaries following the completion of the medical report and the report of the Haj expedition on the basis of which punitive measures will be endorsed against the involved Haj caravan organisers.

The relevant organisers will be called in for questioning preliminary to charging them, in order to investigate the validity of the complaints against them.

NHA signs two new contracts: The National Housing Authority Thursday signed two contracts for the construction and completion of the Jahra Governorate building, and the soil levelling of the Dhahar Housing Project in the amount of KD636,000.

Under the first contract, the Jahra Governorate headquarters building formerly the police station building will be constructed, maintained and completed in the Alyoun area, within a duration period of 180 days, to be followed by 730 days of regular maintenance for the cost of KD466,000.

Under contract two, construction, completion and maintenance of soil levelling works will be undertaken on the Dhahar housing project for a duration of 240 days, to be followed by 730 days of regular maintenance for the cost of KD 240,000.

11,580 court cases in May: A statistical report published by the computer centre at the Ministry of Justice pointed out that courts in Kuwait reviewed a total of 11,580 cases during May. Misdemeanour cases included 972 municipal cases, 96 traffic cases, and 143 commercial cases.

Meanwhile, the report indicated that a total of 1,526 cases were received by the General Prosecution during the same month. These cases included 931 crimes, 401 different misdemeanours and 194 other cases. The same month last year there was a total of 1,053 cases.

Hurd confers with UAE minister: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd conferred here Thursday evening with the UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdulrahman on bilateral relations and regional issues.

The Foreign office in London said the two ministers also reviewed the outcome of the just-concluded session of the joint commission for co-operation between the two countries.

In addition, they discussed the stalled peace process in the Middle East and efforts to secure a lasting settlement between Iran and Iraq.

Road accidents: The police reported 12 road accidents during the last 24 hours. One accident was reported in the Capital, one in Jahra and 10 in Ahmadi Governorate. A driver was killed when his car collided with another car in Fintas area. Two passengers were injured when a car turned over near Abdalli border centre.

The BODY SHOP
Skin & Hair Care Preparations

M. H. ALSHAYA COMPANY, require the following staff for their newly acquired BODY SHOP franchise, located at Zahra Complex, Salmiya, and also for various other dept. stores.

Shop Supervisors
Sales Assistants
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Office Secretary

All applicants should preferably have previous experience, fluency in English and Arabic and have transferable residence.

Please call: 4830141 or 4842872, between 7.30 A.M. - 1 P.M. and 4 P.M. - 7 P.M., for an appointment.

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اولینڈی پورٹ

۲۵ جولائی ۱۹۹۰ء

پیشہ کی طرف سے عزیمت اور پشیمت

آپ کی خدمت میں تحفہ پیش

المانہ کشمیر سروس

محمد احمد طور

بھارتی قریب ہسپتال قریب المری

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ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

I AM for the restoration of order, but not for the restoration of the old order. — Honore Mirabeau, French revolutionary leader (1749-1791).

Boris Yeltsin Career rivals Gorbachev's

(UPI): Boris Yeltsin's career has been a series of attention-grabbing moves that constantly rival those of his political foe, President Mikhail Gorbachev.

No rising star in the Gorbachev era has attracted more attention than Yeltsin, who hotted into major prominence in late June when he was elected president of the sprawling Russian republic while delivering a scathing attack on Gorbachev's policies.

Yeltsin earlier drew international attention with his sudden dismissal as head of the Moscow Communist Party in November 1987.

He had been brought to Moscow by Gorbachev from the industrial city of Sverdlovsk in Russia's Ural Mountains in April 1985 as a proponent of Gorbachev's economic reconstruction programme known as "perestroika." But a crisis developed when Yeltsin — an aggressive advocate of change — criticized the slow pace of the reforms at a plenum of the Central Committee in October.

After he was criticized at the plenum, Yeltsin reportedly recanted and offered to resign. The resignation became public knowledge only in the first week of November shortly before the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the communist revolution.

Soviet television reported Yeltsin was fired because of "serious mistakes in his leadership."

He was immediately replaced by Lev Zaikov, a member of the ruling Politburo.

On May 24, Yeltsin was dropped from the top rung of the nation's Parliament, the Supreme Soviet Presidium, by a unanimous vote of its 1,500 members.

Yeltsin, noted as a politician of principles but one of unpredictable behaviour, moved into the top leadership ranks in February 1986 as a candidate, of non-voting member of the ruling Politburo. But Gorbachev apparently had trouble moving Yeltsin into the very top rank as a full, or voting member of the Politburo.

In the months after he arrived in Moscow, the capital was swept by stories of a hardworking, demanding administrator would shake the city bureaucracy out of the complacency that developed during more than 18 years under his predecessor.

"Frankly, not all of us set sail with the fresh winds of change," Yeltsin warned in a speech printed across an entire page of the Moscow party newspaper Moskovskaya Pravda shortly after he assumed his new post. "Certain changes in personnel are inevitable. The process is under way."

According to one story, Yeltsin escorted the entire staff of the Moscow City Party Committee to a building site one Saturday and joined in donating a half-day of free labour.

While other citizens routinely participated in these "subbotniks," city officials reportedly had long lost the habit of leaving their comfortable central Moscow building to help.

The same as his 55-year-old leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Yeltsin shared a similar style. Instead of hiding behind the Kremlin walls, he set out to mix and see first-hand how people really live.

"He visited the shops near where I live, inspected the goods and talked to people," said a middle-class Soviet worker in his 30s. The man, used to official indifference, was impressed.

One story had Yeltsin telling bureaucrats he would be busy examining the city during the day and to discuss matters with him in his office — between 6 pm and 11 pm.

Another rumour circulated that he left hand-made Zil limousine one day and rode to work on one of the city's decaying buses. After two hours he emerged to declare, "If that's what it's like, it's no wonder people don't want to work."

If the stories were apocryphal, Yeltsin nevertheless captured the imagination of a city of 8.6 million accustomed to official boasts and private frustration.

When the Communist Party congress met in February 1986 for the first time in five years, Yeltsin took on the job of delivering the criticism. People grabbed up copies of the newspaper reporting it.

The rapid rise of Yeltsin, who did not join the Communist Party until he was 30, paralleled the ascendancy of Gorbachev.

In April 1985, Yeltsin was brought to Moscow from the industrial city of Sverdlovsk in Russia's Ural Mountains where he had been party first secretary. He took charge of the Central Committee's construction department and in July was named a full secretary, one of the nation's 30 most powerful positions.

At the time, Gorbachev was busy undermining the Moscow party chief he inherited, Viktor Grishin. Rumours of corruption were followed by newspaper revelations of scandal in the city-run housing industry. By the end of the year, Gorbachev was ready to act.

With Gorbachev himself attending a city meeting, Grishin was removed from the Moscow post and replaced by Yeltsin.

With no former ties to the city, Yeltsin was in a position to freely condemn the past. He ordered the state-run press into the campaign.

Moscow, which official radio in 1985 described as "one of the most beautiful places on the face of the Earth," is now admitted to have deficiencies in everything from its architecture to the number of hospital beds.

Yeltsin said radio and television programmes were "of no interest to Muscovites," meat and fish were poor, 35 per cent of the city's trams and buses were out of order every day, and ordinary people had become outraged.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1536 — France signs treaty of Lyons with Portugal for an attack on Spain.

1544 — England's King Henry VIII crosses to Calais to join holy Roman Emperor Charles V in campaign against France's King Francis I in Picardy.

1690 — Seven French privateers capture New England islands of Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket and Block Island.

1789 — Citizens of Paris storm and capture Bastille prison and release prisoners, marking start of French Revolution.

1790 — France's King Louis XVI accepts the revolutionary constitution.

1886 — Britain and Germany agree on frontiers of Gold Coast and Togoland in Africa.

1990 — International expedition, including United States and Japan, takes Tientsin in China.

1933 — German political parties, other than Nazis, are suppressed.

1934 — Oil pipeline between Mosul and Tripoli is opened.

1958 — Iraq's King Feisal and his heir, and premier Nuri-es-Said are assassinated in Baghdad coup, and King Hussein assumes power as head of Arab federation.

1960 — Leopoldville government severs relations with Belgium.

1967 — UN General Assembly adopts resolution asking Israel to halt action it was taking to alter city of Jerusalem after six-day war.

1971 — Government troops in Jordan attempt to crush Palestinian commando movement.

1988 — Iran, at United Nations, accuses United States of committing "barbaric crime" in shooting down Iranian commercial airliner.

1989 — Leaders of world's seven richest nations open annual summit in Paris, with talks focused on economic struggles in Eastern Europe.



G-7 summit leaders strolling to lunch after a session. (Reuters wirephoto)

Summit backs Soviet reforms

West to study Moscow economy

HOUSTON, (Agencies): The West sent a clear signal of support to Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday but also spelled out the price the Soviet leader must pay to secure a co-ordinated aid package — cuts in arms spending and in aid to Cuba.

The world's richest democracies, tacitly acknowledging that without Gorbachev the political and economic revolution sweeping through East Europe would never have been possible, will now drive their message home in a series of top-level missions to Moscow.

Within hours of the end of the Group of Seven's Houston summit, US President George Bush had sent a telegram telling Gorbachev that technical assistance would "continue apace" and informing him of the leaders' decision to carry out an in-depth study of the Soviet economy's precise needs.

Risks

"Weighing up the various risks leads me to the conclusion that we have more guarantees with perestroika and the already tested figure of Mr Gorbachev than we would if he were to fail," French President Francois Mitterrand said.

"We don't know what would happen then."

Leaders of the seven — the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada — had travelled to Houston for their annual economic summit deeply divided on whether to extend direct financial aid to help Gorbachev.

After three days of talking, leaders settled on a form of words that expressed their clear support for his attempts to reform the ramshackle Soviet economy and held out the prospect of further aid by agreeing to study what was needed.

In a move to accommodate Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, both of whom have argued for urgent financial aid, the careful wording of the seven's communiqué also allowed each of the leaders to go his or her own way.

But all agreed on tough language setting out three conditions which, they said, would "improve the prospect for meaningful and sustained economic assistance."

More radical steps to reform the economy, by no means easy for Gorbachev as he struggles against warring factions in Moscow to push the Soviet Union towards the free market.

A substantial shift in resources away from the military sector. In the past week Washington has revised its estimates on Soviet arms spending up to 25 per cent from 18 per cent of gross domestic product.

A cut in support to nations "promoting regional conflict," a thinly veiled reference to Moscow's \$5 billion a year of assistance pumped into Cuba which has been a consistent thorn in US Secretary of State James Baker.

Conditions

The West has been moving towards imposing economic and overtly political conditions on aid for emerging democracies in Eastern Europe since agreeing to launch packages for Poland and Hungary at the Paris "summit of the arch" a year ago.

But only the coming months will tell how far Gorbachev is willing to go — or feels he can go given the open struggle in Moscow between reformers and conservatives — in meeting the conditions laid down in the Houston summit declaration.

The past six days have placed the onus back on Gorbachev to prove that he was serious when he stated in a letter to Bush on July 4 that he wanted to enter into an "economic dialogue" with the Group of Seven nations and overcome the economic division of capitalist and communist systems.

Last Friday, the Nato alliance declared at a London summit that the cold war era was over and extended the hand of political and military friendship to Gorbachev. This week, the G-7 wanted to

Tokyo flexes muscles

HOUSTON, (Reuters): Japan flexed its muscles at the industrial democracies' summit here, proving it packs a political punch to match its economic power.

At international forums in the past, Japan has behaved more like a 90-pound weakling than the country with the world's second-richest economy measuring its success by how few others it offended.

But not at the summit that ended on Wednesday, the annual meeting of the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) — Japan, the United States, France, Germany, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Japan set specific goals, pushed hard for them, and to a large extent got what it wanted, raising its profile and the rest of Asia's in the process.

One of its goals was to do precisely that, Japanese officials had said before the conference began, Asia.

After it was over, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told a news conference on Wednesday that he "was able to take the opportunity to present the viewpoints of Asia," and praised other leaders for their willingness to listen to Japan's viewpoint.

The summit was originally expected to spotlight East Europe and aid to the Soviet Union. "We detect a certain

send the same message on the economic front."

"Coming after last week's very successful Nato summit, which took a major stride towards a more peaceful world, the results of our meeting in Houston are an important step towards a more prosperous world for everyone," British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told journalists.

It will be now up to the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, to set in motion the G-7 analysis, work that will run in parallel with a study ordered last month by the 12-nation European Economic Community.

The reaction of Gorbachev to the closest ever Western scrutiny of the once highly secretive Soviet economic system could become clearer when Kohl visits Moscow this weekend and during subsequent missions of financial experts.

Over the past days, leaders have given clear pointers to where they think the Soviet economy can best be helped, citing the need to solve chronic transport problems, to revamp its energy industry, and to improve telecommunications.

Kohl could announce concrete projects as early as this weekend. But even he was keen to stress that there was no point in throwing money at the economy without reforms.

"I am not Christmas Father," he said.

At the start, the industrialised democracies will take measured steps, beginning with a study conducted by bankers and other experts of the inefficient Soviet economy and the tentative moves by Gorbachev over his five years in power toward free-market reforms.

The study, under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund, is supposed to be completed by December — although officials at the World Bank said a year would be more like it.

In the meantime, a tide of technical assistance is likely to flow West to East.

At this stage, Bush is reluctant to go further. He wants the Soviets to cut military spending, abandon Cuba and convert to a genuine free-market system. The summit agreed, and so if these conditions are met, Bush may have political fire from his right and propose more significant US aid.

"I don't think you should ever say never," Secretary of State James A Baker said Tuesday in refusing to permanently rule out direct US aid.

And will Gorbachev be pleased with the results of this summit?

"I think he will find in the response a positive encouragement to persist in his reforms, and that seems to us all the essential point," Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, concluded.

Another agreement trumpeted by the leaders was compromise language designed to resolve a fight between the United States and the Europeans over farm subsidies.

Bush had sought their elimination. The Europeans balked, willing only to reduce some of the supports and warning that cutting of the supports could cost 2 or 3 million farmers their livelihood.

This "act of free choice" was criticized at the time for not being a vote of the people, but Indonesia argued that a consensus-gathering exercise among tribal leaders was more appropriate to the culture.

Irian Jaya's people are Papuan — ethnic Melanesians whose cultural and linguistic heritage shares little with the rest of Indonesia's diverse ethnic groups, especially the dominant Javanese.

The armed struggle began in 1969. For the most part, it is conducted without modern weapons or aid from abroad. Diplomats and foreign missionaries say the rebels have no chance of winning.

Eurocentrism," one senior Foreign Ministry official said last week.

Japan saw its role as an Asian voice to provide balance and "to make this annual agreement a truly global one," the official said.

Kaifu got off to a fast start in that effort, raising the China issue in bilateral meetings over the weekend before the summit formally started.

Debate over Japan's cooption that China had made significant reforms since it crushed pro-democracy forces in June 1989 competed with aid to the Soviet Union as a hot topic.

Japan ultimately fell short of getting the summit to avoid fresh criticism of China, but succeeded in securing a tacit understanding that Japan could and would gradually go ahead with an \$10 billion yen (\$5.6 billion) loan programme to China, put on ice after the Beijing massacre.

According to Japanese officials, it was at Kaifu's specific suggestion that the summit's political declaration included a statement that G-7 members would "respond to further positive developments in China."

Declaration

The political declaration carried a reference to advances in

democracy in various Asian countries, another pre-summit Japan goal.

On aid to the Soviet Union, Japan joined the United States and Britain in successfully blocking a G-7 push for the immediate substantial economic help favoured by West Germany and France.

But Japan put an Asian twist on its opposition by emphasising what it called the Soviet Union's continued military buildup in Asia, and the dispute over the northern territories, four small islands seized by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II.

The message to Moscow that substantial Japanese aid depends on progress in the dispute got added impetus when US President George Bush and Secretary of State James Baker included the issue in the brief oral summaries they made of the two lengthy declarations.

With no obvious losses and several clear wins for Japan, the summit should raise the political standing of Kaifu.

Nor will a reference by Bush at a Wednesday news conference to his "great respect for Prime Minister Kaifu" go unnoticed in image-conscious Japan.

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Lebanon

Economy at end of tether

BEIRUT, Lebanon, (AP): After 15 years of civil war, Lebanon's economy is on the brink of collapse and officials have launched a drive for the massive foreign aid they say will be needed to rescue it.

One of the key factors that has averted a total economic cave-in is Lebanon's gold reserves, currently estimated to be worth \$3.2 billion.

But shrinking gold prices have shaved \$500 million off their value in the last 18 months. One third of the haul at Fort Knox and the rest in the central bank's underground vaults in Muslim west Beirut.

The value of foreign currency reserves held by the central bank, virtually the only state institution that still manages to function, tumbled from \$1 billion in December 1989 to \$650 million now.

That was due to heavy fighting early this year driving down the Lebanese pound, forcing the bank to sell off some reserves to prop it up and sharply increasing the amount of money in circulation.

President Elias Hrawi has been touring Arab capitals recently seeking financial aid.

Settlement

A three-member Arab League committee, entrusted with finding a settlement to end the civil war, launched a fund to raise \$2 billion to help get Lebanon's economy back on its feet.

But Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss, an economist and former banker, said that target, even if it was achieved, would barely be enough to "reconstruct the infrastructure" of an economy that was once the most flourishing in the Middle East.

Lebanese economists estimate that reconstruction will cost at least \$21 billion. But many believe the final figure would be far higher.

Lebanese are believed to hold around \$30 billion in assets outside the country. Bankers believe that a large chunk of that would return in peace is ever secured.

Hoss and other leaders agree that the key to economic recovery is ending the civil war between Christians and Muslims in which an estimated 150,000 people have been killed since 1975.

But despite an Arab League-brokered peace treaty endorsed by Lebanon's Parliament last October and Hrawi's election to implement it, peace remains elusive.

Lebanon's national debt is estimated at \$2.3 billion, about 65 per cent of the value of the gold reserves.

Because of the war, the value of the Lebanese pound against foreign currencies has plummeted.

Before the war, the pound was 2.5 to the dollar. In late June it dipped as low as 690 to the dollar.

All Beirut's several dozen banks openly speculate on the wildly fluctuating Lebanese money market.

They buy pounds if they believe things will improve, even for a little while, and dollars when they expect the crisis will deteriorate.

Millions of dollars are made this way and the Central Bank itself plays the market, using its profits to bankroll state spending because revenue has slumped to virtually nothing.

In a country that imports at least 85 per cent of its basic needs, the collapse of the currency has pushed prices sky high.

Precise statistics are hard to come by, but economists and bankers estimate that inflation is running at an estimated annual rate of 400 per cent.

The 250,000-strong General Federation of Labour Unions pegged unemployment at 47 per cent, with most of those employed forced to take second or third jobs to make ends meet.

The unemployed have no social welfare system to cushion them. They have to rely on relatives who are working, leave the country, resort to crime or join a militia.

Fierce bouts of fighting over the last 18 months between Christians and Syrians and between the Christians themselves have taken a fearsome economic toll.

Hundreds of factories and shops were destroyed or damaged in heavy artillery battles. A United Nations report in June noted that fighting between rival Christian forces that erupted Jan 30 has caused damage to private property and the economic infrastructure estimated at \$300 million.

It said, "Unprecedented damage to electricity, water and telecommunications systems has directly affected 1.5 million people. ... Seriously affecting all social and economic life."

Economist Marwan Iskander last month predicted economic and social catastrophe if determined moves were not made "in the next few months."

Iskander, writing in the independent An-Nahar daily, proposed a two-phase plan to be launched "within a year at the most" to salvage the economy. But he stressed that "security, law and order are essential" if the plan is to succeed.

Iskander urged the government to sell its gold reserves and "invest the income in European government bonds" which he calculated would generate an income of around \$350 million a year.

He proposed that state spending be "limited to \$320 million" and that the government sell off state-run utilities such as power plants, water, oil refineries and communications systems to the private sector to slash government spending.

Finance Minister Ali Khalil noted that four years ago Parliament banned selling any hulla "because we feared that substituting gold with foreign currencies would open the door wide to government spending."

Before the war, Beirut was the Middle East's banking capital, bustling with Western tycoons and Arab oil sheikhs. Somehow it continued to function despite civil war and the interminable factional feuding.

But when the Israeli Army invaded in 1982, billions of dollars in Arab assets held in Lebanon fled to Europe. Even now, most of the several dozen Lebanese banks keep up to 90 per cent of their assets liquid.

Revenue from customs levies collapsed when militias took over ports as state authority was eroded. Several built their own ports. That has been costing the Treasury around \$200 million a year.

The economy has been cushioned largely by aid from Arab and other countries and the large amounts of money pumped into the militias by their foreign backers, such as Syria, Israel, Libya, Iran and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

FRENCH NATIONAL DAY

AN ARAB TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

French President Guardian of the constitution

THROUGHOUT her history, France tried out a number of different kinds of regimes and finally found her equilibrium in Parliamentary Democracy. In less than two centuries, she has lived through sixteen constitutions whose principles were inherited from 18th century philosophers. With the 5th republic, a semi-presidential kind of regime, implemented by General de Gaulle, has taken root in the institutions.

The Executive Power. Since 1962, the French president is elected for seven years by universal suffrage. Under the previous regimes, the president's function was, above all, honorary, whereas in the 5th republic the president plays a leading role.

As a Guardian of the Constitution, he sees that the public authorities operate correctly. As head of the armed forces, he guarantees the integrity of the territory and the respect of treaties. He appoints the prime minister, signs ordinances and decrees, promulgates laws and presides over the Cabinet.

The president can call for a referendum for any bill dealing with the organisation of the public authorities. He has the power to dissolve the National Assembly. He makes appointments to civil and military positions, accredits ambassadors and directs foreign policy. In case of serious threat, he is able to use exceptional powers. In such a case, article 16 allows him to rule by decree. Parliament would then sit with full rights and the National Assembly could not be dissolved.

Between 1958 and 1959, there was a re-balancing of powers between a social President and a Prime Minister he had to choose in the opposition. This was a period of cohabitation. But since his re-election in 1988 and the formation of a government with a social majority, the President has regained all his prerogatives.

The government at present consists of 14 ministers whose functions are incompatible with any parliamentary mandate. It is headed by the Prime Minister who determines and leads the policies of the nation. He has the administration and the armed forces at his disposal and he is responsible before the National Assembly.

De Gaulle

Founder of 5th Republic

IN SEPTEMBER 1958, by a referendum, France acquired a new constitution. The 5th Republic, the Gaullian Republic, was born. It was the work of a group of men with different sensibilities, but it was deeply marked by Charles de Gaulle's political thought.

In his "Memoirs of Hope," he wrote: "On this subject on which everything depends, I have, for twelve years, determined the essential." Twelve years was the time he spent champing at the bit in his retreat at spectacular resignation as head of the government, in 1946, till his return to state affairs, in May 1958, owing to the events in Algeria.

By setting up a constitution made to suit him, the General intended to restore the authority of the State, which had suffered damage in the past few months. In his own words, the new constitution made the head of state "an arbitrator above powers and power conflicts," but always guided by the concern never to fail the Republican spirit. For, it is the president "arbitrates," it is the Government which "determines" and "leads" the policies of the Nation.

The founding fathers worked non-stop in order to draw up a constitution from the General's ideas, in six months. They were constantly harassed by De Gaulle who was anxious to have it applied before the end of 1958.

The constitutional document established a double-headed hierarchy: the President of the Republic and the Prime Minister. The latter was to be responsible before Parliament, which the head of State could dissolve. Article 16 gave the President full power to take "the measures

The Legislative Power. Parliament is divided into two chambers: the *National Assembly* and the *Senate*. The former groups through 577 deputies, elected by universal suffrage for five years. The *Senate*, in which 305 senators with a minimum age of 35 sit for five years and are renewed a third of them at a time every three years, is a chamber for reflection and proposals. As a last resort, in case of disagreement with the Senate, the assembly's decision predominates.

The Right to Vote. This, of course, is the keystone of any system of liberal democracy in France. Suffrage, which is the expression of the sovereignty of the people and which, in France, was established on March 5, 1848, is universal. It is granted to all French people without any kind of distinction. It is a free and secret ballot and there are, of course, several candidates.

The Constitutional Council. The nine members of this major institution are selected for nine years, one third by the head of state and two thirds by the presidents of the two assemblies. Former French presidents are on the council by right. The council makes sure that laws are constitutional and elections honest. It makes its decision with sovereign rights if the president of the republic is prevented from doing so. It can only be appealed to by the head of state, the prime minister, the presidents of the two chambers and the deputies or senators when at least sixty of them call for it.

But there may one day be an innovation. In accordance with a wish expressed by the head of state, the minister of justice recently presented a bill to extend the power to appeal to the constitutional council to ordinary people seeking justice. This reform would offer every citizen the possibility of himself contesting the conformity, to the constitution, of legal dispositions which he considers go against his basic rights.

The Economic and Social Council is made up of 230 members, two thirds of whom are appointed by professional organisations and one third by the head of state. It gives its opinion on decisions to be taken on economic and social matters.



De Gaulle: a man of vision

demanding by circumstances," in the case of a serious crisis. The constitution also gave him the right to make use of a referendum. The separation of powers was further reinforced by the impossibility for a parliamentarian to be a member of the government at the same time. A constitutional Council was created to control legislative activities. Finally, the Senate had its role and its prestige re-established.

Among those who leaned over the cradle of the 5th Republic were the General's loyal supporters including his principal private secretary Georges Pompidou, a future president, and the ardent Gaullist Michel Debre, Minister of State, who took a decisive part in drawing up the articles.

In the middle of summer 1958, the preliminary draft passed through the hands of the 36 personalities making up the Consultative Council most of whom were parliamentarians or specialists in constitutional law. They were headed by Paul Reynaud, the former president of the Council. It was up to them to give their opinion and to amend the text if necessary.

Above all, the famous article 16 led to such contestation that De Gaulle had to come and explain himself in front of the consultants.



French President Francois Mitterrand: upholding values.

France - fourth biggest exporter

FRANCE is the fourth country in the world for exports, after West Germany, the United States and Japan. However, she imports more than she exports and, therefore, she has a chronic deficit in her foreign trade.

However, if one considers the extreme figures of the last ten years (a deficit of 93 billion francs in 1982 and a surplus of 0.5 billion francs in 1986), the situation appears to be slowly improving. In 1989, the deficit amounted to 44 billion francs, that is to say 0.7 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

In 1990, this trend towards improvement is becoming clearer. For the first four months, the average monthly deficit is around 1.6 billion francs, making it possible to predict an annual deficit limited to 20 billion francs.

For the first time since June 1979, in March 1990 France recorded a surplus in her trade with the E.E.C. (+ 53 million francs). Although it is minimal, it could be the harbinger of a coming brighter situation. The sharply falling deficit to West Germany is, for a large part, compensated for by the positive balance with Great Britain.

The strong demand from France's German and British neighbours, as well as the recovery of the French currency, are at the origin of this improvement. Between the first quarter of 1990 and the equivalent period in 1989, the franc, which rose by 9.5 per cent against the dollar, has improved its position in the European Monetary System.

The positive areas, which bring France a surplus in her balance of trade, are cereals, wines and spirits, automobiles, cycles and spare parts, perfumes, dairy products, drinks alcohol and tobacco, aeronautics, oil-seeds, iron and steel products and pharmaceuticals.

The negative areas, which keep foreign trade in the red, are energy in general, electronics, textiles and clothing, paper and cardboard, non-ferrous metals, chemical products, coffee, cocoa and tropical fruit, tinned food, leather and shoes.

France's top ten suppliers are also her top ten customers. These are West Germany, Italy, Belgium/Luxembourg, the United States, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain, Japan, Switzerland and Sweden.

The tourist industry largely contributes to attenuating the foreign trade deficit. In 1989, France received 43 million visitors who left 100 billion francs in receipts. For 1990, 45 million are expected: a record!

14th July 1790: 'Marriage of France with France'

Bastille Day - when everything changed

The Fete of the Federation

FRANCE's national feastday of 14th July is often known abroad as "Bastille Day" in memory of the storming of the famous prison-fortress, the symbol of absolutism, in 1789.

But when, at the beginning of the 3rd Republic, the deputies instituted the 14th July as the French National Feastday, by a decree on 6th July 1880 at the instigation of Gambetta, president of the Chamber, they were also, and above all, referring to 14th July 1790, the day known as the "Fete of the Federation," which is indeed a unique day in French history as it marks the birth of democracy in this country.

One might remember that during the Bicentenary celebrations last year and particularly in the famous parade on 14th July, organised by Jean-Paul Goude and the Bicentenary Mission, this Fete of the Federation was, above all, evoked as symbolising the adherence to the ideals of democracy.

Moreover, that is the full meaning of that strange word "Federation." In fact, in 1790, a phenomenon, which had never been seen in the whole history of France, came to pass.

The Bastille had been stormed

in July 1789 but this fact could have been taken for a "revolt" and not yet for a "revolution". However, between July 1789 and July 1790, everything changed, with the abolishment of privileges on 4th August 89, the Declaration of rights on 26th August and, for the first time, the preparation of a Constitution founded on the primacy of the deputies, that is to say the citizens, over the executive power (the King, at the time) and the absolute primacy of the Law voted by those same deputies representing all of the people. It was thus the creation of modern democracy and a "state ruled by law."

In order to defend these new principles, a general movement of "federation" of all citizens, wishing to support the new principles, suddenly spontaneously sprang up somehow at the beginning of 1790. This union was sanctioned by an oath. At that time, the movement reached all groups of society (villages, guilds, regiments, etc.) and all the geographic areas of the country, even the most remote (including the Marseilles Federates whose rallying song became the French national anthem, the "Marseillaise").

As this movement took on the proportions of a tidal wave, the deputies decided to organise a huge meeting of all the "federations" for 14th July 1790 in Paris, and this gathering was naturally given the name of "Fete of the Federation."

This event was a prodigious moment in the history of France as it consecrated the Fraternity and Faith of a whole nation in the new democratic order founded on a "sacred" text, the Constitution. "It was the marriage of France with France," Michelet was to write.

The Champs de Mars, spreading out on the left bank of the Seine (where the Eiffel Tower stands today) served as a setting. Some 1,200 workmen fitted out the area into an enormous amphitheatre. But it was soon realised that there are not enough of them to be able to manage the task and the Parisians came to give a hand.

Everybody set to work with shovels and picks. A witness described the extraordinary event: "The courtesan and the frail woman fill up the wheelbarrow covered in garlands of flowers which will be pushed by a prelate, and abbot and a monk. A nun next to a dancer from the Opera.

the duchess and the marchioness mingling with the fishwives. Magistrates and actors join forces with coalmen." To the sound of hands supporting the workers' ardour.

The big day came. Only the sun was not festive. A downpour fell on the procession of 100,000 federates who had come from the Pyrenees or the depths of Brittany. They gathered together on the site of the former Bastille, and reached the Champs de Mars over a bridge which had been built across the Seine in three days and was covered in flowers. As an evocation of ancient memories of Sparta, a battalion of children preceded the procession and a group of old men followed it.

In spite of the rain, people gave free rein to joy and enthusiasm. The King and the President of the Assembly were installed on dais in front of the Military Academy. The altar to the motherland rose in the middle of the square.

Forty cannons fired their salutes. The musicians, 1,200 in all, played their violins, flutes, drums and trumpets. Standards and banners fluttered in the wind. The representatives of the legislative power and the executive power, symbols of the

new-found unity of the Nation by the grace of the Constitution, were greeted with loud cheering.

Silence fell when, with a limping step, Talleyrand, the Lord Bishop of Autun, went up the steps of the altar to celebrate mass surrounded by two other bishops and 200 priests wearing white albs and tricolour sashes.

When the mass was over, La Fayette, the commander of the National Guard, stepped up to the altar of the motherland and, in the name of all, uttered the civic oath to the Constitution. The rain stopped and the sky brightened up. The words sparkled. The general, the army and the deputies all together shouted: "I swear," to the ovation of some 500,000 spectators.

Standing with his hand stretched out towards the altar, the King, representing the executive power, in turn took the oath to employ his power to maintain the Constitution.

These were moving, fleeting moments, when brotherhood and a love of the public well-being swelled hearts, and when the Nation, gathered together, greeted the birth of a new era, one of democracy, that is to say of Freedom.

European vocation

Seeking a leading role

IN THIRTY months or so, D-Day will arrive for the Single European Market, of 340 million citizens whose merchandise, goods and services will circulate freely, ignoring frontiers.

Thirty-two years will have elapsed since two Frenchmen, Jean Monnet and Robert Schuman laid the first stone of that Europe of the Future: the European Coal and Steel Community, today symbolizing France's attachment to the construction of Europe.

Since 1984, the Frenchman Jacques Delors has presided over the destiny of the European Communities Commission in Brussels.

France has many assets which give her the vocation of playing a leading role in the construction of Europe. First of all, her geographical position makes her

a crossroads between the Twelve. Her size is an asset too as she is by far the largest country to the EEC. She is bigger alone than West Germany and Italy together.

On an economic level, France is the sixth power to the world and alone represents 3 per cent of the economic weight of the planet for a population which is only 1 per cent of the world total.

France is said to be cool and apprehensive at the prospect of the upheavals implied by the creation of Europe. On the contrary, it appears that, on the whole, the French look towards that date with serenity. A survey, carried out in 1989 reveals that 69 per cent of them are "very" or "fairly" in favour of it. 61 per cent consider that France has "much" or "quite a lot" to gain from it.

Important decisions were taken during France's presidency of the Community, from June to December 1989. Not only was the plan for Economic and Monetary Union set in motion, but Paris made the first move by freeing the circulation of capital, from 1st January 1990.

On the initiative of Francois Mitterrand, the Twelve decided to better co-ordinate and intensify the fight against drugs. On the subject of the environment, they agreed, in November 1989, to create a European Agency which non EEC countries could join.

The most original French proposal to be accepted concerns social Europe. "One cannot make a Europe of business and a Europe of big firms (...) without

making a Europe of citizens", Francois Mitterrand had said. In order to give better protection to workers, a Community Charter of Social Rights, which France made a priority, was adopted by eleven of the twelve member countries.

France is also at the origin of the Eureka project, (a kind of civil counterpart to the American Star Wars project), which consists in pooling the knowledge and know-how of Europe in the technological battle.

The High Definition Television project undertaken in the framework of Eureka is in competition with the Japanese standard. Thus, a sector which is already widely penetrated by Japanese industry now has the means to take up the offensive in the West.



Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission.

The challenge of 1993 is about to be won. Now a political Europe, which it is so difficult to give birth to, as the points of view of the different partners are so varied, remains to be created.

Energy

Alternatives

FRANCE has no oil, but she does have ideas, so the saying goes. But her ideas are limited, environmentalists rejoin, as they reproach her for having sacrificed too much for nuclear power, giving up traditional sources of energy and neglecting substitute forms of energy. Could she do otherwise?

Thanks to her considerable coal deposits, France remained just about independent in the area of energy until the 50s. But, with the cost of extracting coal becoming too high after 1958 she turned to oil which she imported at low cost. This remained the main source of energy (accounting for 65 per cent of consumption in 1973) until the oil crisis which tripled the price. Because of this, France's balance of trade, which had, till then, been in credit, showed a deficit, and, since then, the balance has remained negative.

In order to find a solution to this difficult situation, the government launched an ambitious plan to develop nuclear power. The result is that, in 1990, France's dependence in energy is falling and industry pays less for a kilowatt hour than in the United States and other European countries.

In 1989, France used 209.6 million oil-equivalent tonnes (*) of energy (that is to say 2.5 per cent of the world consumption), compared with 205.5 million tonnes in 1988.

The production of nuclear energy keeps rising. In 1989, it accounted for 67.9 per cent of all the energy produced (the highest rate in the world), whereas in 1970 it amounted to less than one per cent. France's production of nuclear energy allows her to sell electricity to neighbouring countries.



At a time of world disarmament, France's objective is to make savings in the military area without relaxing its guard.

threat to dissuade an enemy from his aggressive intentions".

In 1966, France put an end to the integration of her forces to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. However, she has not left the Atlantic Alliance and she takes part in NATO's manoeuvres. Thus, in 1989, the French fleet of Toulon and the 6th American Fleet carried out manoeuvres together off Corsica.

The Organization is based on four systems:

- Nuclear and Strategic Forces: an air force and earth missile units; a strategic ocean force (6 nuclear submarines each having 16 missiles, and a further two planned).

- The tactical nuclear weapon, designed to operate on a bat-

tlefield and comprising land, air and sea artillery units.

- Traditional forces: land, air, maritime, naval airforces, and the state police.

- Overseas forces placed under the orders of inter-army instructions.

The Army Plan 2000, implemented in 1990-91, aims to give the country a more coherent system by simplifying the structures. At the same time, the army is continuing its effort to modernize its means of nuclear deterrence, improving its air and land manoeuvre corps and bettering its capacity of projection in the world.

Conscription or a professional army? Should one favour a national army, rooted in the peo-

ple and supported by republican values (equality in the face of the "blood tax") Or favour a corps of professionals having greater availability for operations? The old debate is still a topical subject. For the time being, conscription, established in 1798, abolished in 1814 and re-established at the end of the 19th century, finds favour with the French.

At a time of detente and world disarmament, the government's objective is to make savings in the military area without, however, relaxing its guard. It is not a matter of cutting down the defence budget, but of slowing down its growth rate by spreading the development of certain programmes over a time.

French in the '90s: new values

A SOMEWHAT parochial homebody, wearing a Basque beret, with his long French loaf under his arm, is the traditional view of the Frenchman seen by the foreigner. But today, it is difficult to find one to fit this description.

The new values of the French are reflected in the priority given to self-fulfilment, personal creation, the fitness of the body and the development of leisure. And this is to the detriment of social or political commitment, as borne out by the fall in members of trade unions.

The French and money: Their position towards the economic world and particularly money has changed considerably. In this old Catholic country, impregnated with rural traditions, it is no longer a *sine qua non* to earn money. For sociologists, this is one of the major changes which have occurred in attitudes. If a man has become rich, starting from nothing, it is because he has worked hard, 69 per cent of those questioned consider, while only 13 per cent reproach him for not having always been honest. Thirty years ago, the opposite was maintained.

The French are getting richer. The French, following the old habit of the peasants that they were for a long time, are very



A new spirit, combining leisure and adventure, is now evident.

discreet about the amount of their wealth. However, studies make it possible to establish that in 1990, the average heritage of a family was around 600,000 francs (380,000 in 1980), with big differences according to the socio-professional category.

The unprecedented success of the Popular Savings Plan (PEP), launched in 1989, attests that the French do save. They also readily invest in real estate (more than half of French families own their homes). And more and more of them are ready to risk their savings in chancy investments: since the 80s, the Stock Market has

been very popular, despite the 1987 crash.

The French gamble a lot on the Lottery, Loto, and the horses. Some 25 million players, that is to say one citizen in two, spend 30 francs a week hoping to win the jackpot.

In the home, the biggest part of the budget is spent on food (20 per cent), but it is falling considerably (26 per cent in 1970). Spending on the home is almost as high: 19 per cent compared with 15.3 in 1970. However, the French spend less on clothes: 6 per cent of their budget compared to 9.6 twenty years earlier.

They quickly adapt to new machines and appliances which invade their everyday world, according to surveys. They use the phone a lot: only 12 per cent of people still prefer to write a letter rather than make a phone call. About 20 per cent keep up a private correspondence of more than 20 letters a year.

Every French person devotes between half an hour and an hour to reading every day. 130 minutes are spent listening to the radio (more than 1,300 FM stations). The taste for music is rising strongly with the use of the "walkman", the car radio and the stunning breakthrough of the laser disk. Museum attendance is rising constantly, and theatres and private auditoriums are often full.

However, the French go to the cinema less, and yet they have never seen so many films, but they watch them at home on television: 95 per cent of households have a TV set. Particularly since the development of cable television which brings them programmes from about twenty French and foreign channels. Sales of video-cassette-recorders and cameras are booming. The success of the pay channel, Canal Plus, should also be stressed: 2,700,000 subscribers in 1989.

Research gets a shot in arm

WITH 315,000 people, including 130,000 researchers, research in France has a great potential. The budget devoted to research in 1990 amounts to 2.38 of the gross domestic product.

Its finest show-piece is the National Scientific Research Centre (CNRS), created fifty years ago. Its purpose is to develop, direct and co-ordinate all kinds of research. The CNRS has more than 1,300 laboratories employing 27,000 researchers.

Other big research centres include the National Agronomic Institute (INRA), the National Health and Medical Research Institute (INSERM), the National Telecommunications Studies Centre (CNET), the National Space Studies Research Centre (CNES), the Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), the Pasteur Institute (vaccines) and the Gustave Roussy and Curie Institutes (cancer).

The main trends in French research policy are aimed at:

- giving value to scientific and technical achievements, particularly in the areas of data-processing, communication, space and microbiology;
- developing research which will have repercussions on the economy and the needs of society: energy, genetics, biology;
- intensifying co-operation between physicists, chemists and engineers, particularly in the area of new materials.

French research aims to be increasingly open to the outside world. The plan for modernizing the CNRS, implemented last year, provides, for example, for extended diversification in ways of working in partnership, by increased association with universities and firms, but also foreign countries.

A few examples include: The fight against AIDS: 60 France's initiative, a certain number of countries have agreed to setting up a network for exchanging information. Researchers at INSERM are involved in collaborating with their opposite numbers in West Germany and Great Britain, particularly in trying to find antiviral agents.

The technological Eureka programme, launched by France in 1985, now extends beyond the framework of the EEC. France is taking part in 127 projects aimed at designing the industrial products and processes of the next millennium.

French researchers are involved in several world programmes concerning the environment. In 1989, the "Planet Earth" conference was held in Paris. 180 scientists of 40 different nationalities proposed setting up a World Observatory of the Globe and launching an international programme for defending the environment.

Polar research. With Australia's agreement, France is going to build a permanent scientific station in the heart of Antarctica (South Pole). Named "Dome C", this base will be set up at an altitude of 3,000 metres, 1,000 kilometres from the coast. It will enable researchers to examine the "ice archives" by taking core samples several thousand metres deep. Scientists will be able to read the history of climates (and pollution) in them, over a period of 500,000 years. Dome C will be situated beneath the famous hole in the ozone layer, whose development will be followed more easily.

Space. France is meeting her commitments within the European Space Agency by developing the programme for the Ariane 5 launcher, carrying out feasibility tests for the Hermes space plane and taking part in the orbital infrastructure of Columbus. In July 1989, the prime minister announced the construction of the Spot 4 satellite, intended for observing the Earth, of which it will provide high resolution pictures.

The role of French biologists in the "Human Frontiers" programme should also be mentioned. This is a Japanese initiative on the mechanisms of how the human brain works. It could have repercussions in the area of artificial intelligence and also in correcting problems of behaviour.

Finally, France is taking part in the programme for describing the "Human genome".

Education: top priority

RECENT surveys show that school is the institution in which the French have the most confidence, even if schools, parents and teachers display their dissatisfaction now and then, complaining of there being too many pupils to a class and calling for new premises and more teachers.

It is true that numbers of pupils keep increasing. At the beginning of the last school year nearly 14 million students (a quarter of the population) were received in the various establishments, and secondary schools (lycees) had an intake of pupils up by 85,000 on last year.

In 1985, barely 45 per cent of young people aged 18 were still studying. In 1990, there are 60 per cent. The French Department of Education is creating more and more teaching posts with a view to having 1,250,000 teachers in 1990.

Education in France is free, and compulsory until the age of 16. It is divided into three periods: kindergarten from the ages of 3 to 6, then primary school till the age of 11, and then the various systems of secondary education leading to the baccalaureat (higher secondary school certificate). From 1950 to 1967, the success rate at this examination was about 60 per cent. In 1989, it beat its record with 75.5 per cent of pupils passing the baccalaureat. A success rate of 80 per cent is expected before the year 2,000.

Things are moving in French education. This year saw the application of a law to guide education in a new direction. Over 170,000 primary school children had their level assessed in reading, writing and arithmetic, with the aim of giving extra tuition to those who need it.

The "computer plan" is being developed and pupils are becoming familiar with micro-computers. Student-delegate councils are also spreading in schools.

In addition to state education, there is also private schooling. It receives a grant from the state and is attended by about a quarter of school-age children. A considerable proportion of the French population feels attached to the system to the extent of demonstrating in the street, if necessary, to defend the private sector when it appeared to be threatened.

Higher education: A quarter of young people aged 20-24 continue their studies after the baccalaureat. These students, who number 1,200,000, go to university, preparatory classes for admission to the elite "grandes écoles," or to specialized higher training establishments.

World fairs

"EVERY year, France attracts millions of visitors to its International Fairs mostly taking place in Paris. The capital of France had become a place of great reputation and prestige concerning the organisation of major trade exhibitions in the world.

From fashion to space industries as well as agro-industries, machine tools, telecommunications, interior decoration & furniture, electronics... all fields are well represented.

Visitors from Kuwait are most welcome to attend and participate in these events. PROMOSALONS (office for the promotion of international trade exhibitions in France) is at their disposal to supply them with accurate information on the fair.

Gigantic tribute

Fireworks explode around the Eiffel Tower to mark the end of a day dedicated to ceremonies commemorating Charles de Gaulle's election call against Nazis on June 18, 1940, in Paris. Fireworks were launched in five different locations in Paris at the end of a gigantic tribute organised by the mayor and former Prime Minister Jacques Chirac around the banks of the River Seine. France this year is paying tribute to the founder of the 5th Republic; the statesman, diplomat and visionary who restored the status of France as a great power. De Gaulle's wish was to bring the French together: everybody "has been, or will be, one day a Gaulist."

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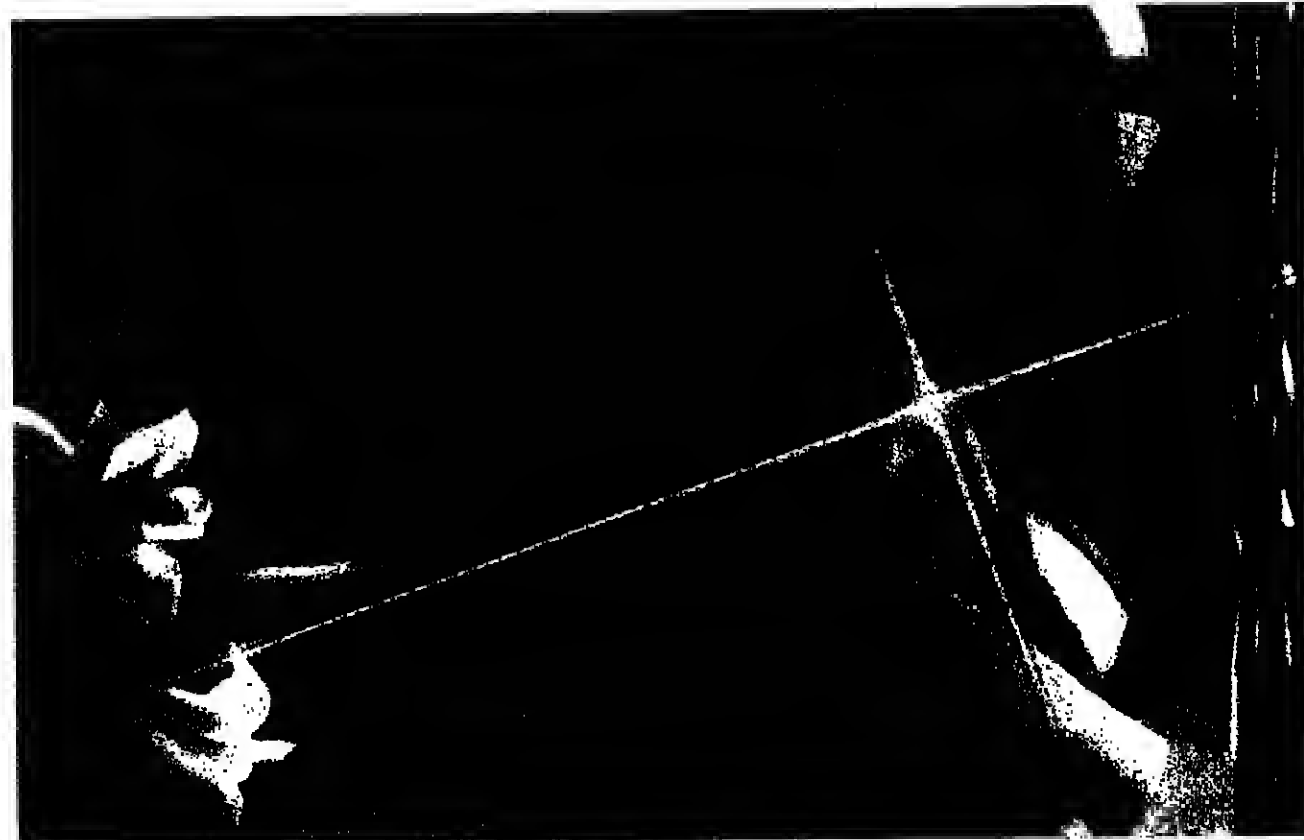


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The Budget Priority to solidarity, future

THE State Budget is drawn up by the Government and voted every year by a finance law. The main source of revenue comes from taxes with the fiscal system being largely based on indirect taxation.

For 1990, the revenue projected amounts to 1,127 billion francs, that is to say 6.8 per cent more than in 1989. Expenditures amount to 1,218 billion francs, (a rise of 5.3 per cent over 1989). The shortfall is thus reduced from 100.5 billion francs to 92.2 billion francs, that is to say 1.4 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The total amount of projected State spending in 1990 is divided up among the big ministries in the following manner (in billions of francs): Economy and Finance: 297; Education: 229; Defence: 231; Social Affairs and Employment: 115; Interior: 64; Various others: 162.

Three main objectives dominated the preparation of the 1990

Budget: reinforcing solidarity, overhauling the public service, and building Europe. Tax pressure has also been significantly relieved by a reduction of 16.7 billion francs.

In order to reduce social inequalities, a bigger effort is being made in national solidarity:

● Funding, for housing very low income families, has gone up by 17 per cent.

● Financing for the Minimum Insertion Income for people without any resources has been increased and, for 1990, amounts to 7.5 billion francs.

● The Employment budget provides more largely for training young people and for the reinvestment of the long-term unemployed.

Several other measures in the 1990 finance law aim at greater social justice, with a reduction of Value Added Tax on refundable medicines, a decrease, in

inhabited-property tax for people with low incomes, and the creation of a segment of wealth tax.

Public aid for the development of Third World countries amounts to 34.6 billion francs in 1990, that is to say 0.54 per cent of the GDP. France thereby consolidated her position as leader among the big industrialised nations in this field.

It is also important to prepare the future. The amount of the budget allocated for this is greater than in 1989 and concerns three main areas.

● Education: Here, the budget of 227.4 billion francs is up on last year by 8.7 per cent. It will, above all, lead to the creation of 13,540 jobs.

Primary and secondary education benefit from 200 billion francs to increase staffing, to give new value to the teaching profession and to boost pedagogy and guidance.

The higher education budget, for its part, is characterised by a 9.5 per cent increase.

● Research. With 45.3 billion francs, the civil research and development budget benefits from an increase of 7 per cent. Three kinds of action can thus be pursued:

● The development of public research: with the creation of 600 jobs, including 286 research, particularly devoted to work on Aids; with the granting of extra means for industrial research in order to give a boost to big technological projects; and for the continuation of Space programmes, for instance the Ariane rockets.

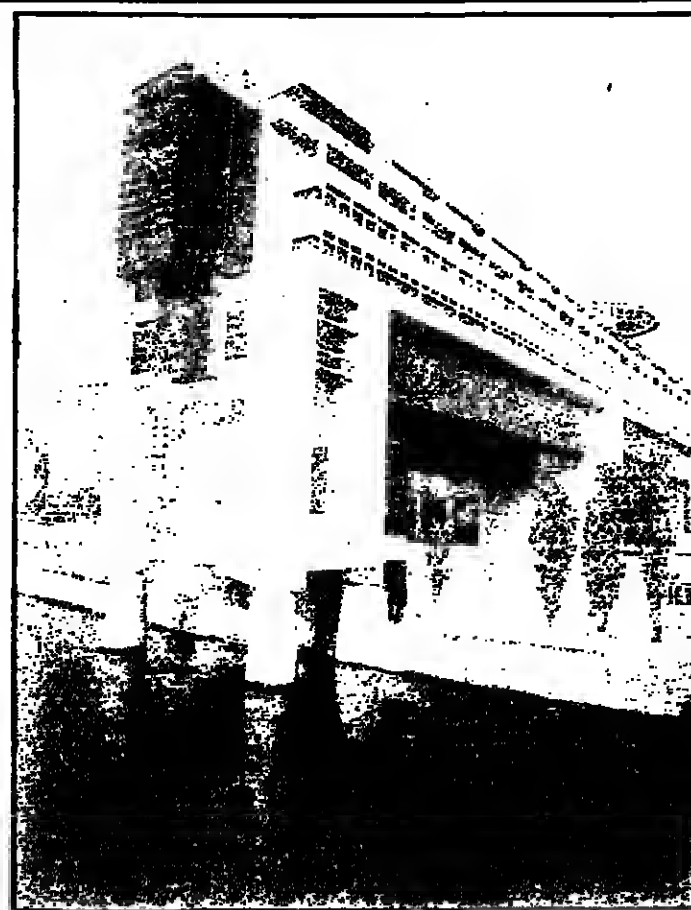
● Culture. The budget for Culture and Communications (10.46 billion francs) has been increased by 7.6 per cent. The amount allocated for Big Building Projects will, in particular, finance the second stage of the Grand Louvre as well as the preliminary studies and early

work on the Bibliothèque de France (French Library). Cultural action is directed in five areas: protecting and enriching the heritage, aiding museums, offering support for creation and the world of entertainment, theatre, cinema, ballet, etc., making more funds available for the development of the cultural environment and for teaching in artistic fields.

Finally, the financial means allocated to the public sector of the audiovisual area have been considerably increased (+ 6.6 per cent).

Three other key figures:
● GDP: 6,350.7 billion francs.
● Total GDP growth in 1990: 5.5 per cent.
● Projected consumer price index (inflation) for 1990: + 2.5 per cent.

(*) The Gross Domestic Product is the total wealth generated by all the national economic agents.



The new finance ministry building

Population Birth-rate exigence

THERE are 56 million French people today, that is to say 6 million more than 20 years ago. France has 1 per cent of the world population and 17 per cent of that of the European Community. Three of her neighbours have a greater population than France: West Germany (61 million), Italy and the United Kingdom (57 million).

From the middle of the 19th century, a certain fall in the demography can be noted. The fertility index (1.9 babies per woman of child-bearing age), is insufficient to ensure a renewal of generations. "The birth-rate is becoming a priority and a national exigence", the French Minister of Finance, Pierre Berégovoy, recently declared.

Attempts to reverse the trend are being taken with the introduction of numerous measures to favour births.

At the same time, there is a considerable ageing of the population as a result of a big fall in the death-rate (10 per thousand), one of the lowest in the world. Thanks to medical progress, the average longevity for men is 72.3 years and 80.6 years for women. In 2020, the country will have one citizen aged over 60 for every two aged between 20 and 60.

For a long time, the surplus among immigrants compensated for the fall in the birth rate, but, since the 70s, it has been growing closer to zero rate. After thirty years of prosperity, difficulties are cropping up on the labour market, compelling the governments to take measures to put an end to illegal immigration.

The foreign population numbers 4.4 million people, that is to say 8 per cent of the total population. In France, a traditionally welcoming country, it is estimated that one citizen in three has his roots abroad. Few French people leave the country: 1,500,000 French people live abroad.

Seventy per cent of the immigrant population is made up of six nationalities: Portuguese (850,000), Algerian (725,000), Moroccan (560,000), Italian (380,000), Spanish (350,000) and Tunisian (225,000).

The French territory is sparsely populated with 102 inhabitants per square kilometre (the EEC average is 160 inhabitants to the Km²). The geographical distribution is very unequal. In 50 years, the French have become city dwellers: 75 per cent of them live in towns of over 2,000 inhabitants. Three conglomérations have over a million people: Paris, Lyons and Marseilles. Thirty-six cities have more than 100,000 inhabitants. And the phenomenon is growing, particularly in the Paris area whose capital suffers from overpopulation, despite efforts at decentralization.

Co-operation Opening up to Eastern Europe

A feeling of solidarity, but also well-understood interest have led France to promote a strong policy of co-operation and aid for development in Third World countries. In 1990, she is devoting 0.54 of her gross domestic product to it and she intends to increase it to 0.7 per cent (the average contribution of industrialised countries is around 0.36 per cent).

The French became aware of the widening gap between poor and rich countries very early on. Life expectancy, which is 78 years in France, is less than 40 in Guinea or in Sierra Leone. In our western countries, a hectare of land yields 12 tonnes of maize, but only 800 kilos in the Sahel.

From Africa to the Caribbean and including the Indian Ocean, the country of Pasteur and Schoelcher (a deputy who was at the origin of the definitive abolishment of slavery in 1848) increases her intervention to lighten the burden weighing on the underprivileged. The most spectacular act was the wiping out of the debt of 35 poor countries, announced by President Mitterrand in 1989. Because of the links established during the period of colonisation, France feels a particular duty towards Africa. She comes top among donors to sub-Saharan Africa

and in second place for the whole of the continent.

In the framework of Europe, France was president of the European Community last year when the latter granted 85 billion francs to developing countries. Moreover, she continues her action to help refugees, for instance by undertaking, at the Geneva conference in 1988, to receive 4,400 Vietnamese.

In about sixty countries, France has 9,000 co-operation workers, teachers and technicians: specialists in agriculture and tropical forestry, irrigation, stock-farming, pest control, etc. She is also in charge of the 600 people of the Association Française des Volontaires du Progrès (French Association of Volunteers of Progress) which takes part in an important programme of European development.

Teaching holds a choice position in Cultural and Technical Co-operation. More than 8,000 pupils in 350 French schools abroad. In addition to these, there is the big network of the Alliance Française and the 160 institutes and cultural centres. French language radio and television, news picture agencies, artistic exchanges, exhibitions, etc. are all used to spread French culture.



In addition to permanent assistance, emergency aid plays a large part in France's humanitarian activities. In 1989, France helped by providing material aid, provisions, medicine and rescue teams either directly or through non-government organisations such as "Médecins du Monde" (Doctors of the World) or "Médecins sans Frontières" (Doctors across Borders).

The co-operation takes various forms: an anti-meningitis campaign to stem an epidemic in Ethiopia and in Benin; help with supplies and intervention by the Paris Civil Protection squad when there were floods in Burundi and Djibouti; an air-bridge to repatriate 100,000 victims of the conflict between Senegal and Mauritania; provision of emergency material after an earthquake in Algeria and tents in Niger to help cope with the influx of Touaregs, etc.

Without prejudicing the action already undertaken to help Third World countries, as a result of the changes in Eastern Europe Paris had to mobilise new means to help those countries.

The main lines of co-operation with Eastern Europe have been drawn up. France intends to play an active role in introducing a market economy there. Jacques Attali, President Mitterrand's special adviser has thus been appointed head of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

France intervenes when it comes to distributing European food and agricultural aid to Poland and to Hungary. She trains executives for the economy and industry of countries which have rejected the communist regime. She creates grants for their students and sets up French or mixed firms particularly in East Germany and in Czechoslovakia.

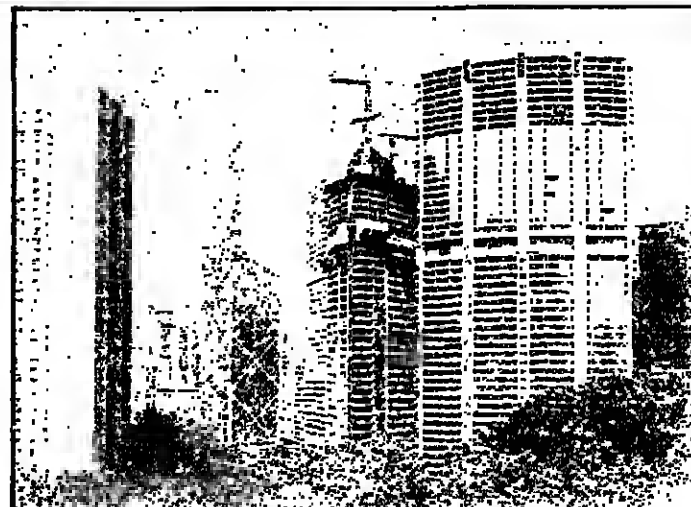
Helping to build the world

WITH Ferdinand de Lesseps digging the Suez Canal and the Panama Canal, Gustave Eiffel throwing the first metal bridge over the Douro in Portugal, Le Corbusier building Chandigarh in India, etc., there is a long list of builders who have left the mark of a French work all over the world, a tradition which is still respected.

Here are a few examples of big building projects carried out by French firms all over the world:

The Mosque in Casablanca. It was ordered from the architect Michel Pinseau and the Bouygues firm of builders, by King Hassan II of Morocco, commander of the faithful. It was completed in 1989 and has been built on the sea of the extreme west of the Islamic world. It is the highest religious building in the world. The spire of its 200-metre high minaret rises above the water. The prayer room can hold 35,000 people and a further 80,000 can be comfortably accommodated in the forecourt. Some 750 kilometres of pipelines are being installed in Colombia by the SAE and Spie-Batignolles firms. It is a very complex piece of work, crossing the Cordillera of the Andes at an altitude of 3,000 metres and ending at Covenas on the Pacific, an achievement worthy of the Guinness Book of Records.

The highest dam in Africa, the Turkwell dam, in north-west Kenya, is nearing completion at



Pacific Place, Hong Kong, under construction.

the foot of Mount Elgon (4,130 metres), in the Rift Valley. It is the work of the Spie-Batignolles company. This hydroelectric complex will increase the country's energy resources by 20 per cent.

The Cathedral of Yamassoukro in the Ivory Coast was inaugurated at the end of 1989. Several French firms, including Dumez, one of the top building and public works companies, took part in this fabulous construction, a replica of Saint Peter's in Rome, standing between the savannah and a lagoon. It was built in three years (while the basilica in the Vatican took a century). About 2,000 people from 25 different trades worked on the site. Some were skilled in the most advanced high technologies, while others used the gestures of cathedral builders from the Middle Ages.

At the beginning of 1990, the group formed by Bouygues-

Montcocol and Debe completed the 137 kilometre rally link from Ramdan to Djamel and El Milia in Algeria. For seven years, it mobilised an extraordinary mechanised armada, 23,300,000 M³ of earth and marl had to be removed at the cost of unexpected difficulties underground, particularly when it came to building a 900-metre long tunnel and carrying out 65 pieces of construction work.

The brand new Cairo Metro, which is one of the most modern in the world, is a one hundred per cent French achievement. Three years ago, Cairo was still one of the most congested cities on Earth with an incredible amount of traffic. Today, over half a million travellers take the Metro every day and the city of Saladin can breathe again.

This fine creation is the work of a consortium of 17 French firms, headed by a subsidiary of the Paris Transport Company (RATP).

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World News Roundup

Combine US broadcasts: The US Information Agency has recommended that the US government's radio, television and film service operations be consolidated under the Voice of America as a unified broadcasting group.

The proposed reorganization would combine the government's satellite television and film service, Radio Marti, TV Marti under the direction of VOA chief Richard W. Carlson.

The move would "better position the agency" to be more effective in a rapidly changing world, said USIA director Bruce Gelb in a statement Thursday. (AP)

On-the-job seat belt use: Thirty-five million US workers who drive on the job will have to wear seat belts under a regulation announced by Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole. Even business people riding in taxis will have to buckle up.

The US Chamber of Commerce said the rule had the potential of being "regulatory overkill." The American Federation of Labour-Council of Industrial Organizations, the largest US labour alliance, said it didn't go far enough. (AP)

Hubble blueprints reversed: The company that built faulty mirrors on the Hubble space telescope also gave a subcontractor reversed drawings for Hubble guidance parts in 1982, government documents show.

The backward blueprints drawn by prime contractor Perkin-Elmer Corp. forced the company in 1981-82 to pay the subcontractor to rebuild a Hubble tower assembly part used to aim the telescope. (AP)

Atlantis tank testing: NASA officials hoped to locate a hydrogen leak in Atlantis' fuel system by partly filling the shuttle's external tank on Friday, the second such test for the grounded spacecraft.

Extra sensors have been placed next to valves, pipes and seals suspected of leaking, with plastic bags covering the components. The contents of the bags will be analyzed in an attempt to pinpoint the leak.

Nasa gets tough: For nearly 30 years, the US space agency looked the other way when its high-spirited astronauts tested the rules of behaviour that governed their lives. But that's all changing now.

This week, the space agency departed from tradition and suspended two veteran shuttle commanders over their conduct. For Navy Cmdr Robert L. Gibson and Navy Capt. David M. Walker, both in their mid-40s, the suspensions might signal the end of their astronaut careers. (AP)

Defence spending: The influential Senate Armed Services Committee early Friday approved a \$289-billion defence bill that cuts troop strength in Europe by 50,000, congressional sources said.

In a session that began early Thursday and ended shortly after 1 am (0500 GMT) Friday, the committee agreed to an overall budget that is \$18 billion less than President George Bush proposed in January. (AP)

Drive to cut defence spending: Charging that the United States spends \$570,000 a minute on defence despite the reduced Soviet threat, a coalition of national groups opened a drive on Wednesday to cut the US military budget in half by the year 2000.

The campaign will feature radio broadcasts and other pressure at the grassroots level to slash annual Pentagon spending from its current \$304 billion to \$152 billion at the turn of the century. (Reuters)

Death row inmate executed: A man convicted of abducting and killing a woman in 1976 was executed in the electric chair early Friday after failing in his last two attempts to get a reprieve.

Wallace Norrell Thomas died shortly after midnight (0400 GMT), hours after the US Supreme Court rejected his plea for a stay of execution. (AP)

MTV music video awards: Pop superstar Madonna will compete with Irish newcomer Sinéad O'Connor for top honours when the 1990 MTV music video awards are announced in September.

Nominations were announced Tuesday and in the category of best video of the year, Madonna's "Vogue" goes against O'Connor's "Nothing Compares 2 U." Don Henley's "The End of the Innocence" and Aerosmith's "Janie's Got A Gun."

For best male video the nominees are Billy Idol's "Cradle of Love," Henley's "The End of the Innocence," and Michael Penn's "No Myth." (UPI)

Radio host suspended: A radio talk show host has been suspended for barring black listeners from calling his show. He and the station also apologized to listeners.

Host Tim Lincecum said Thursday he was upset because a black man had broken into a station employee's car and stolen her purse. He told his listeners about the theft during his two-hour show Wednesday, then stopped blacks from calling. (AP)

New York chosen: The US Democratic Party on Wednesday last named New York City as the venue for its 1992 presidential nominating convention.

The formal announcement by Democratic National Chairman Ron Brown had been expected and confirmed reports that New York had beaten out New Orleans to host the convention, which brings publicity and business to the host city. (Reuters)

Vote against women ordination: The ruling body of the Seventh-Day Adventist church voted Wednesday against allowing the ordination of women.

Delegates to the church's 55th world conference voted along geographical lines, 1,173-377, to accept a commission's report that ordaining women would be disruptive to the world church and should not be allowed. (AP)

Bioremediation advocated: Oil-eating microbes let loose on the Mega Borg oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico last month reduced the size of the slick significantly, raising hopes the technique will become the first line of defence in future spills, authorities said Thursday. (UPI)

US may lose FAO vote: Due to a clash expected between the US and the United Nations Food Organisation, the US may lose its vote, a senior State Department official said Thursday.

John Bolton, assistant secretary of state for UN affairs, said, "The FAO (UN Food and Agricultural Organisation) is the only agency that has not accepted consensus-based budgeting."

Bolton, in comments to the New York Times, referred to a congressional amendment now in force. (Kuna)



Bush praises Dimitrios

US President George Bush (shown right) on Thursday welcomed Patriarch Dimitrios (shown left), the spiritual leader of orthodox Christians, to the White House and thanked him for helping sustain the faith of people in Eastern Europe.

"The world rejoices that the new freedom of the past year means that your orthodox followers in so many lands are now once again able to follow freely and openly the road of holy light," Bush later told Dimitrios in remarks at a banquet of the Greek Orthodox Biennial Clergy-Lay Congress.

"We celebrate the dawn of hope for these people, particularly those for whom you speak in Eastern Europe," Bush said in reference to the democratic reforms in Eastern Europe over the last year.

He praised Dimitrios for "unflinching devotion to the passing on of clear moral values and your emphasis on the importance of a good education."

Bush also praised the orthodox community for "deeply-rooted spiritual beliefs as well as the richness of your cultural life." (Reuters wirephoto)

Cocaine collapse

Friends covered for Barry: witness

WASHINGTON, July 13. (AP) Marion Barry collapsed from a cocaine overdose during 1987 trip to the Super Bowl and friends helped cover up the cause of his medical treatment, a lawyer testified at the mayor's drug and perjury trial.

Lloyd Moore, who also described using drugs with the mayor, said Wednesday he learned of the cocaine overdose in January 1987 in a telephone conversation with a friend of Barry's.

The friend, Jeffrey Mitchell, was in Los Angeles with the mayor at the time.

Mitchell "indicated that they had smoked... cocaine laced with something," Moore said of the phone call.

Barry was "very sick... they thought he was going to die," Moore said Mitchell told him.

Moore was the sixth prosecution witness to describe using drugs with the mayor.

Barry is facing 10 counts of cocaine possession, one count of conspiracy and three counts of lying to a grand jury about his alleged involvement with drugs.

Prosecutors are using the testimony of Moore, who was appointed by Barry to the city housing and arts commissions, to support a charge that Barry conspired to conceal his cocaine use.

UFO

French probe

ROUEN, France, July 13. (Reuters) Police and scientists are examining a strange disc-like hole in a cornfield in western France, said a spokesman for the French Air Force.

Police said on Wednesday they had called in government-paid UFO experts to look at a 10 metre (30 foot) wide conically-shaped hole that appeared in a field last weekend after farmers reported hearing a loud thud.

There was no trace of fire but part of the field appeared to have been flattened by a blast.

Colonel Wilfried de Brunner said the UFO performed movements which no existing airplane was capable of making.



Marijuana seized

Narcotics Bureau officers arrested five men Thursday in Hong Kong and seized 980 kilograms (2,156 pounds) of marijuana worth \$8 million Hong Kong dollars (\$7.4 million US), Hong Kong's largest seizure of marijuana ever, police reported.

Police said the men were arrested when they tried to pick up 15 sacks of marijuana at a pier in the fishing village of Aberdeen early Thursday.

They said another 34 sacks containing marijuana were found on a beach nearby.

The drugs were shipped to Hong Kong from Thailand aboard a fishing trawler, police said.

They said the man, whose names were not disclosed, were assisting police with their investigations.

Police Narcotics Officer Yip Kwok Keung said part of a seizure of cannabis thought to be the biggest consignment ever in the British colony.

Dark matter

Galaxy hidden by dust: study

NEW YORK, July 13. (AP) Part of the universe's mysterious, elusive "dark matter" may be just ordinary stars hidden by dust, a study suggests.

The study concludes that spiral-shaped galaxies contain far more light-blocking dust than scientists had thought.

If that is true, it weakens one line of evidence for the existence of unseen mass called dark matter. But it does not address other arguments for the matter's existence, scientists said.

Dark matter is thought to exist because visible objects can account for only about 10 per cent of the mass detected in the universe.

One line of evidence is that the rotation of spiral galaxies appears to reflect the gravitational tug of unseen objects. The new study suggests that at least part of this gravitational pull may actually come from undetected stars hidden by dust in the galaxies.

The work was presented in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature by Edwin Valentijn of the European Southern Observatory and the Kapteyn Astronomical Institute in the Netherlands.

Valentijn analysed the brightness of 9,381 galaxies, and concluded that major parts of many spiral galaxies are opaque. "In many cases, perhaps only the outer layer of stars is observable," he wrote.

The work "looks like a careful analysis using new data," commented astrophysicist Jeremiah Ostriker of Princeton University professor of physics and astronomy who studies brightness of galaxies, said the result must be checked in further studies. But it fits previous evidence from satellite observations, she said.

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Thatcher's 'seat' may go: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary seat of Finchley, North London, could disappear in the review of constituency boundaries, it was reported here Thursday.

The review is due to begin next year for completion after the next general election, expected in two years' time.

However, the British media believed that the Conservatives could gain 15-25 seats through the changes.

An analysis of population changes, conducted by a British firm, suggested that Finchley must be merged with a neighbouring constituency because of the falling number of London voters.

The constituency is inhabited by a Jewish majority and Thatcher is the head of the pro-Zionist group there, the Conservative Friends of Israel. (Kuna)

Protestors win appeals: Two anti-nuclear protesters at the Greenham Common US missile base won appeals of criminal trespass convictions Thursday, and lawyers said hundreds of fellow demonstrators could be acquitted.

The House of Lords, Britain's highest court of appeals, quashed the convictions of the two protesters, Jean Hutchinson and Georgina Smith, for trespassing on the base, 30 miles (80 kilometres) west of London, in June 1989.

Five law lords unanimously found the Ministry of Defence bylaws under which the women were convicted by Newbury Magistrates Court in July of that year.

The lords said the bylaws were invalid because they denied people established rights of use of Greenham's public land. (AP)

Televised debates: British parliamentarians, liking what they see of themselves on television, said on Wednesday that an experiment to televise debates in the House of Commons should be made permanent.

A parliamentary committee said the introduction of cameras into the House last November had not increased rowdiness as had been feared and was a success with viewers.

The House is expected to vote on the recommendation in two weeks.

Prime Minister's question time, which twice a week features Margaret Thatcher in robust exchanges with opposition leader Neil Kinnock, became a hit with millions of viewers in Britain and abroad. (Reuters)

Author cleared of murder: One of Greece's best-known poets was cleared Thursday of murdering a fellow writer.

In a retrial, Athanasios Nafoutzik, 68, a former President of Greece's Writers' Union, was found innocent of murdering Athanasios Diamantopoulos, 73, by four votes to three on grounds that his guilt was not proved.

The court comprised three judges and four jurors. Nafoutzik, who has written extensively on humanism and the theory of science, was sentenced to life imprisonment in April 1986. He was found guilty of killing Diamantopoulos with 97 hammer blows to the head in 1984.

"I always believed in my innocence," Nafoutzik, a frail man suffering the tremors of Parkinson's disease, said after the verdict Thursday. "Now I can get back to my writing." (AP)

Computer virus chaos: Small businesses were bracing themselves Friday for an outbreak of computer chaos from rogue viruses in London, reports said.

As Friday the 13th dawned, software trouble-shooters were ready to fight to save corporate data from being wiped out by computer hackers.

Viruses introduced in a system can lie dormant for months awaiting a trigger to activate the programme's destructive force, according to experts.

Small businessmen were more likely to lose their livelihood if they lose their system. "They are more likely to get their software from a dubious source, so they need to be extra careful," said computer specialist Susan Dingsdale. (Kuna)

Jewel thieves: Two men held up a fashionable Paris jewellery store Thursday and walked away with earrings and watches with an estimated value of 12 million francs (\$2.1 million), the store's director said.

The two men, believed to be in their 30s and speaking Arabic, entered the "Queen Gallery" next to Cartier on fashionable Avenue Montaigne in mid-morning when there were no clients in the store.

The store's director, who requested anonymity, said the two men forced her to open cases containing diamond, sapphire and ruby earrings. She added that major pieces were on exhibition because the store's four representatives in Japan are in Paris.



Mongolian festival

Mongolian horsemen dressed in their traditional costumes gallop around the stadium on Thursday in Ulan Bator, during opening ceremonies of the two-day-long National Festival. (Reuters wirephoto)

Debate of treasure ownership goes on

NORFOLK, Virginia, July 13. (AP) A group of explorers has returned to court to defend their claim to an estimated \$1 billion in sunken treasure found in a shipwreck off the Atlantic coast.

The Columbus America discovery group found the wreck of the SS Central America in 1987 about 160 miles (250 kilometres) off Charleston, South Carolina, in water 1-2 (2.4 kilometres) miles deep. The ship, carrying an estimated three tons (2.7 metric tons) of gold from the California gold fields, had sunk in a storm in 1857.

Nine insurance companies, New York's Columbia University, two treasure hunters and an order of Roman Catholic monks also claim the gold belongs to them.

The insurance companies represent 39 underwriters who paid off on the wreck, Columbia says it is due a share because data from its 1984

sonar survey of the area was used to locate the wreck.

Treasure hunters Harry G. John, heir to the Miller Brewing Co. fortune, and Jack Grimm, a Texas oilman who found the wreck of the Titanic, paid Columbia \$300,000 to do the survey. John later assigned his stake in the Columbia data to the province of St Joseph of the Capuchin order of monks in Detroit.

Two weeks before the trial opened in early April, John bought his stake back from the monks for \$10. He and Grimm later agreed to evenly split with the order whatever they recovered.

The April trial over the ownership of the cargo of the SS Central America featured ten days of testimony before the parties submitted briefs to the US district judge Richard Kellam.

Columbia America attorneys said the insurance companies had abandoned the wreck

for 132 years and were now trying to cash in on someone else's labour. Lawyer Richard Robol said the gold could be worth \$1 billion. He said there was no evidence the companies had ever paid off on the policies, and said they had no inventory of insured items.

"There was no proof that they are the identified owners of identified property," he said. The insurance companies denied they abandoned the wreck. Attorneys said salvage operations were launched as early as 1858, but efforts were unsuccessful because the technology was not available to recover cargo from deep water.

The companies said newspaper accounts of the time clearly show the claims were paid. Columbia America countered that the accounts are contradictory, misleading and perhaps false. The group has demanded the companies produce precise business records of the claims and payouts.

The report could not be independently confirmed and analysts say Khmer Rouge radio reports cannot always be considered reliable sources of information. The report was monitored in Bangkok.

Roland Eng, spokesman for the guerrilla faction loyal to Cambodian Prince Norodom Sihanouk, claimed Tie Banh was under house arrest, but said details were sketchy. (AP)

Pro-democracy quiz: Chinese high school seniors taking this year's college entry examination faced a new series of questions on last year's pro-democracy protests, an official report said.

Students were asked to "analyse the reasons, essence and lessons that should be drawn from last year's turmoil and rebellion," said the Tuesday edition of the Yangcheng Evening News of Canton, seen in Beijing on Wednesday.

Japanese good-will mission: The Japanese Socialist Party on Friday said it is sending a good-will mission to North Korea in a bid to improve relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang.

The party's Vice-Chairman Wataru Kubo said a six-member delegation would head for North Korea on July 19 at the invitation of the Korean Labour Party.

Relations between the two countries soured in 1985 following the detention of five Japanese by North Korean authorities on charges of spying. (Kuna)

Malaysia opposes US bases: Malaysia today reiterated its stand that it is opposed to any plan by Singapore to allow the United States to establish military bases in the republic.

Deputy Prime Minister Ghafar Baba said Malaysia would not oppose Singapore's intention to allow US troops to use the republic's facilities for service and maintenance.

He was commenting on negotiations between the United States and Singapore on the matter. (Kuna)

Caribbean earthquake: A moderate earthquake in the Caribbean shook Martinique and the Windward Islands Thursday night, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries, radio stations and officials said.

The quake of 5.5 on the Richter Scale struck at 7.08 pm (2308 GMT) in the Windward Islands, 50 miles (80 kilometres) east of Fort-de-France, Martinique, according to the US Geological Service in Colorado.

Radio Paris, in a broadcast relayed on Radio Carabe in Guadeloupe, reported that three tremors struck Martinique, a French territory. The report said there were no injuries or damage, but gave no further details. (AP)

Engineers arrive in Bolivia: A contingent of 65 US military engineers arrived Thursday in Bolivia to extend a provincial runway, a US Embassy spokesman said.

Their arrival in La Paz came just hours after President Jaime Paz Zamora denied the United States would set up a prototype anti-drug command in Bolivia to fight cocaine traffickers.

The technicians, members of the engineer group 937, arrived on a C-141 transport plane from Fort Riley, Kansas, Thursday morning, said Bruce Wharton, a US Embassy spokesman.

The engineers are the first of approximately 400 troops, including doctors and military support personnel, scheduled to arrive in Bolivia over the next two weeks, Wharton said. (UPI)

60 boat people go back: Sixty Vietnamese boatpeople who fled their homeland seeking a better life in the West will return voluntarily to Vietnam Sunday after being promised financial incentives under the United Nations repatriation programme.

A total of 107 boatpeople have returned to Vietnam voluntarily from Malaysia but the Third World country still is struggling for a solution to the 20,000 others packed in holding camps. (UPI)

Voluntary repatriation: More than 100 Vietnamese are expected to return to their homeland in the first voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese refugees from Thailand since 1975, a United Nations official said Friday.

An official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said 111 refugees from the Phum Nihom refugee camp had volunteered to return to Vietnam and would be interviewed by Vietnamese immigration officials in Thailand early next week.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he expected the refugees to return to Vietnam within one or two months. (AP)

Refugee screening in Hong Kong: Vietnamese asylum-seekers should not be sent back from Hong Kong because the British colony's screening process for refugees still has significant flaws, Amnesty International said Friday.

The international human rights organisation said there have been some positive developments in the screening process over the last six months.

But it said sufficient safeguards are still not in place to ensure that refugees who at risk of having their human rights violated are not returned to Vietnam. (AP)

Disagreement on repatriation: An international conference to discuss the future of Vietnamese boat people has been postponed in a continued disagreement over repatriation of non-refugees.

Raymond Hall, spokesman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said Wednesday that no new date has been set for the conference, which had been scheduled for July 16-17.

Hall called the delay "very dangerous" and said risks were growing that countries near Vietnam would refuse to allow boat people to land on their shores. About 112,000 boat people currently are in Southeast Asian refugee camps, he said.

Japan protests: The Soviet Union took a slap at Japan Friday, sending 169 Japanese fishermen who were caught poaching salmon in Soviet waters to Communist North Korea, many against their will and the request of the

Japanese government.

The fishermen were aboard 12 ships that had apparently been leased illegally to North Korea along with their crews by a Japanese company.

Japan, which had requested that its citizens be allowed to return directly to Japan, immediately protested to the Soviets.

Rebels repel attack: Cambodian resistance forces attacked a province capital and halted a drive by government troops to recapture rebel-held towns in fighting last week that killed 150 government soldiers, Khmer Rouge radio said Thursday.

The radio of the Chinese-backed guerrilla group also reported that Gen Tie Banh, the defence minister of the Vietnamese-installed government, has been arrested for illegal financial activities and is being held under guard in a Vietnamese hospital. (UPI)

Cambodian minister detained: Khmer Rouge guerrilla radio claimed Thursday that Tie Banh, defence minister in Cam-

Minimi guns

Australian Army private Matthew (Bundy) Ryan with one of the Minimi 5.56mm machine-guns in Brisbane, Australia. The Minimi machine-guns are undergoing evaluation tests to replace the Australian Army's ageing M60 machine-guns. (Reuters wirephoto)

هكزنس الأمل

Knesset plans change in law of return

Immigrants charge Ethiopia holding Jews to get arms

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 13, (AP) — The chairman of Israel's parliament committee on immigration warned yesterday that immigration laws would be changed if the number of Soviet non-Jews exploiting them continued to grow.

"There are at least five million people allowed into Israel under the law of return who are actually non-Jews," said Michael Kleiner, head of the parliamentary committee. "We can't take in five million more people."

"When every plane starts bringing in a high per cent of non-Jews coming here on a technicality, it will be time to change the law."

The 1950 law of return entitles every Jew to automatic Israeli citizenship. An amendment

passed in 1970 passes this right on to the child, grandchild or spouse of a Jew, as well as the spouse of his child or grandchild.

The parliamentary law opposes Jewish halacha, a traditional law that names a Jew only one who is born to Jewish mother. Israel's orthodox establishment has long fought to change the law of return to follow the halacha and exclude non-orthodox converts.

Kleiner, of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc that now tries to cement an unstable alliance with orthodox parties, says there are 2.2 million "proper" Jews in the Soviet Union, in addition to five million non-Jews with Jewish grandparents, and another 500,000 with

Jewish fathers.

That makes 7.7 million people eligible for Israeli citizenship and the related economic help.

■ Ethiopia's embattled leader Mengistu Haile Mariam is denying some 10,000 Jews permission to leave for Israel in an effort to get military supplies, a leader of the Ethiopian community in Israel charged today.

The accusation comes amid reports that Mengistu's hardline Marxist government is targeting as secessionist rebels gain ground in their battle to topple him.

Rahamim Elazar, chairman of the public council for Ethiopian affairs in Israel, said Mengistu was demanding arms from Israel to allow more Jews to leave his country for Israel.

"Mengistu is trying to use them (the Ethiopian Jews) for military aid," he said. "He is trying to squeeze Israel for aid."

Israel has sought to bring out all of Ethiopia's Jews since immigration was cut off in 1984 when a secret airlift campaign known as Operation Moses was halted after the Ethiopian government learned of it.

An inquiry by a US congressional panel has concluded Ethiopia has halted the emigration of Ethiopian Jews, apparently in an effort to force Israel to send more weapons, the New York Times reported in today's editions.

Gen. Powell rules out Mideast war

Little chance of victory for any country fighting Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 13, (UPI) — The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell said today war in the Middle East was unlikely because any country fighting Israel had little chance of victory.

Powell, who is on a visit to the Middle East, made the remarks after a meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. Powell and Shamir discussed possibilities for peace in the Middle East, Soviet Jewish immigration and US-Israeli co-operation, army radio reported.

After the meeting, Powell told reporters although there is always the

possibility of war in the region, it was unlikely.

"It is clear to anyone examining the situation, the balance of power and the strength of Israel and its connections with other states that a war against it has a very small chance of success," he said. "Therefore, I do not see a serious possibility of war in the region."

Powell said further US funding for the Arrow missile being developed by Israeli aircraft industries is being examined in Washington.

Mayors met Arens with PLO approval

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, July 13, (AP) — A PLO official said in a published interview today that his organisation approved in advance the first major meeting between local Palestinians and a cabinet minister in the new Israeli government.

The meeting between Defence Minister Moshe Arens and three West Bank Palestinian mayors came after the new right-wing government said it hoped to reach a Middle East peace settlement by talking only to Palestinians not linked to the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Israel's refusal to give the PLO even an indirect role in peace negotiations was one reason that United States' efforts to mediate a peace settlement have run into troubles.

Abdullah Hourani, a member of the PLO's executive committee, said in the interview with the Jerusalem Arabic weekly Al Nadwa that the PLO knew of the meeting ahead of time and got reports on it afterwards.

"The PLO endorsed a meeting as a chance for Palestinian national figures to notify the Israeli official that the PLO is the legitimate representative ... for the Palestinian people," Hourani was quoted as saying.

Mayor Farah Arafat of Beit Jala, one of those who met with Arens on June 27, said that the account given by Hourani was correct.

"The content of our talks (with Arens) that the PLO is the only representative is also correct," he said today.

Mayor Elias Freij of Bethlehem, who also attended the meeting, only said that Hourani "has the right to say this" when asked about the PLO official's comments.

Freij, who is regarded as among the most moderate Palestinians, had said after the June meeting that the officials told Arens that only the PLO could negotiate with Israel.

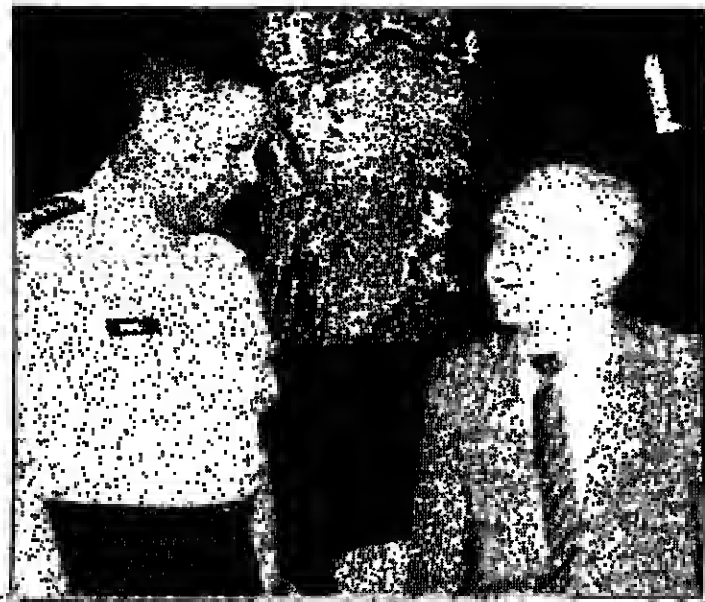
The third mayor who attended, Hanna Atrash of Beit Sahour, was not available for comment.

After Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir formed the new right-wing government on July 11, officials immediately reiterated the stand that the government would not negotiate with the PLO, which Israel considers a terrorist organisation.

Officials said later that the government's peace efforts would focus on trying to open talks with non-PLO Palestinians, a tactic that has repeatedly failed in the past.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, a top policy adviser to Shamir, explained the government's plan this way: "We are going to make a determined effort to convince our Palestinians here that the PLO option is not available."

US efforts to arrange Israeli-Palestinian peace talks stalled in March when Shamir turned down a compromise that would have included Palestinians deported by Israel or with homes in East Jerusalem among the Palestinian delegates.



Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Colin Powell (left) and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir exchange smiles during their talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

Palestinians plan air raids on Israel

Buying ultra-light planes

LUDWIGSHAFEN, West Germany, July 13, (AP) — A Palestinian commando group has bought about 100 ultra-light aircrafts in four European nations for attacks on Israel, a West German newspaper disclosed yesterday.

In 1987, six Israeli soldiers were killed and another seven injured when a Palestinian commando flew such a motorised hang-glider into northern Israel from Lebanon.

The West German newspaper Die Rheinpfalz said Israeli and other Western intelligence services discovered Palestinian commandos had recently been buying another 100 of the aircrafts in Britain, Italy, Yugoslavia and Austria.

The single-person planes were being converted into two-seaters capable of carrying 180 kilograms (370 pounds) of weapons, ammunition and explosives, the newspaper said.

The ultra-light planes are highly mobile, make little noise and can elude radar detection by flying at extremely low altitudes.

The paper added that one of the group involved in the operation was the Palestine Liberation Front of Mohammed Abbas, also known as Abu Abbas, a pro-Libyan group responsible for the May 30 attack on an Israeli beach.

Abul Abbas' group also carried out the 1985 seizure of the Italian cruiser Achille Lauro, in which one elderly American was killed.

The newspaper said the other group involved in Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), which conducted the 1987 hang-glider attack.

It added the planes were being financed partly by Libya and could be launched either from a Libyan ship in the eastern Mediterranean or from southern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Libyan news agency Jana dismissed as part of a "Zionist-imperialist scheme" a report that Palestinian commandos loyal to Abu Abbas are planning to launch an airborne attack on Israel from Libya.

"Some news agencies have relayed news, attributed by a German newspaper to Zionist and Western intelligence sources, that the Palestine Liberation Front, was preparing for an air attack against the Zionist entity in occupied Palestine," said the state-run agency monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp.

"As usual in their promotion of such news, the sources dragged the name of the great Jamahiriya into them," said the dispatch.

■ The Swedish government ordered the expulsion yesterday of a Palestinian man accused of having links to terrorist groups.

Erik Lempert of the Immigration Ministry said the cabinet dropped expulsion orders against two other Palestinians, including one who has already left Sweden and another who cannot now be found in the country.

■ The Palestine Liberation Organisation denied yesterday it was providing training to Muslim fighters in southern Thailand who seek an independent state.

The initial phase of the Arrow project cost \$158 million, with roughly 80 per cent of the funding coming from the United States.

The US Defence Department must decide whether to allocate \$200 million more for the next phase of development of the Arrow, which is designed to combat short-range ballistic missiles.

Powell said he was disturbed with the weapons build up in the Middle East but did not anticipate that war would break out.

Buildup

Israel was his last stop on a five-nation orientation tour that earlier took Powell to Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan.

Powell noted that there were sophisticated weapons in the region, including ballistic missiles, and that "armies are building in size rather than going down in size, which is what we're starting to see happen in other parts of the world."

He said the trend was worrisome but that despite Arab threats, he did not consider war inevitable.

"I think that it is clear to anyone examining the situation — that the correlation of forces are such and the strength of Israel's relation with others is such — that there could be little prospect of success in going to war," Powell said.

Rhetoric

He added: "I don't really see a serious prospect of war breaking out. Notwithstanding a great deal of rhetoric about the subject."

After meeting with Powell yesterday, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens told reporters: "I think we've apparently found an answer to ground-to-ground missiles. We expect the US administration to continue funding Arrow project so that we can successfully complete its development and arm ourselves with it."

The Arrow is being developed jointly by Israeli aircraft industries and the American Lockheed Corp.

Earlier in the day, he was taken by helicopter to southern Israel to see a military exercise in the Negev desert.

Violence

The former chairman of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee has warned of "gathering momentum towards violence and war" in the Middle East and urged that aid to Israel be tied to human rights practices.

In a tough statement based on a three-week trip to the region, former senator Charles Percy said the United States could act quickly to revive peace efforts if it had political will and said it may be time for a joint peace proposal with the Soviet Union.

"Real debate, however, on US Mideast policy has been frozen for almost two decades as uncompromising support for Israel in this capital has become the norm of good politics," the Republican told a press conference.

While one side of the coin manifests the grace of Arabic calligraphy, recalling a date to be celebrated in years to come, the reverse of the coin shows an

ME church alarmed at Christian emigration

LIMASSOL, Cyprus, July 13, (AP) — The Middle East's Christian prelates voiced alarm Friday at the exodus of Christians from the region at a time when hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to flood into Israel and the Arab lands it occupies.

"Middle East emigration could not but be seen in the light of the current crisis created by Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel, the occupied Territories and East Jerusalem," the executive committee of the Middle East Council of Churches said in a statement.

The committee also blamed Israeli Human Rights violations in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, where Palestinians have been waging an uprising since December 1987.

The committee was issued after a three-day meeting of the 24-member committee. It consists of senior representatives of the region's four main Christian sects, the Eastern and Oriental Orthodox, Roman Catholics and Anglican-Protestants.

"While emigration is a matter of deep concern, it is symptomatic of deeper causes which can be traced to the political, economic and human rights situation in the Middle East," the committee noted.

It added that it was consequently necessary "to join with other religious and non-religious organisations, as well as governments, to work together to increase awareness among people for the concern for human rights."

The committee reiterated the council's support "for the restoration of the rights of the Christian community in Jerusalem, in the context of the realisation of justice and peace in Palestine-Israel as a whole."

It also repeated a call last January by the council's general assembly for the right of the Palestinians to establish a state of their own.

The concern over the accelerating Christian exodus coincided with a survey of Christian Palestinians in Jerusalem and the West Bank and Gaza that showed 2,160 Christians were emigrating from those areas every year.

The survey was carried out by the Ecumenical Institute for Theological Research in Bethlehem.

Samir Kafaty, the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem, said during the executive meeting that the wave of emigration from the area "is not a peculiarly Christian problem."

"But we are a minority and it's more visible and noticeable in our case."

Emigration by Christian and Muslim Palestinians was being spurred "by the massive Soviet-Jewish immigration which supercedes any other political problem," he told a news conference Friday.

"Israel previously pushed people out and now with the coming of the Soviet Jews, there's a new threat for taking over the place not only of the Christians but also of the Muslim population," he added.

It is believed there are only 46,000 Christians among the 1.8 Palestinians who live in Jerusalem and the Israeli-occupied territories. Another 91,000 Arab Christians live in Israel.

The council estimates that the total Christian population in the Middle East is 14 million.

Kafaty said it was necessary "to attack the cause of emigration and not the symptoms, and the cause is the violation of the human rights of the people."

Special Report

Souks a lost glory

Bazaars abandoned for boutiques

DAMASCUS, Syria, July 13, (AP) — The grand bazaars of the Middle East, where for hundreds of years camel trains used to bring the riches of the world to the Islamic and Ottoman empires, have lost much of their glory.

But they still evoke the sight and sounds of an epic past.

Bazaars, or souks as they are known in Arabic and kapali carsi in Turkish, are the most ancient version of a shopping mall.

Barkers still elbow each other aside as tourists dawdle past.

"For you special price..." "You want nice carpet? Just look my shop..."

Bazaars

"Hashish. You want hashish?" When the Islamic and Ottoman empires flourished from the 8th century to the 1600s, the bazaars of Damascus, Cairo and Istanbul were commercial giants.

The dusty camel caravans from Samarkand, the Arabian peninsula and ancient Persia are long gone. Much of the exquisite architecture is practically invisible now and cratering under the grime of centuries.

Still, the bazaars abound with images that have changed little since the Middle Ages.

Here a peasant rides a donkey. There a craftsman beats a copper tray. Caught in a light beam filtering through a cracked roof in the opaque light of the teeming bazaar, they provide time-capsule glimpses of what once was.

All but the poorest local shoppers have abandoned the bazaars for downtown boutiques and department stores.

But the aura of history draws new clientele, the tourists, the life blood of the bazaars.

Erected

The bazaar in Cairo, Egypt's capital, is often called Khan Al Khalili after a core building erected by the sultan's horse master in 1382.

Michel Nassar runs a top jewelry store established there by his Lebanese grandfather in 1890.

"Khan Al Khalili used to be high-class, a market, not a tourist area," said Nassar, whose store still creates made-to-order designs in gold, diamonds and emeralds.

But the environment has changed, he said, with craftsmen no longer masters of their arts.

"People used to come to the Khan and spend the day. Now they rush from shop to shop, and the bazaar is filled with junk."

The sea trade that started with the voyage of Vasco Da Gama around Africa to Asia in 1497 eventually made caravan trade obsolete. Then colonial occupiers of the 19th and 20th centuries crippled local craftsmen as cheap imports forced them aside.

Middle East conflicts and revolutions since World War II also took their toll, interrupting the vital tourist trade for years.

Craftman

Many experienced craftsmen and merchants fled. Foreigners or Jews felt vulnerable as their wealth and patriotism was questioned in Arab states bent on implementing socialism and fighting Israel.



Anti-Israel demo

Tens of thousands Hezbollah supporters chant anti-Israeli slogans during a funeral of two militants killed in south Lebanon by an Israeli air raid. (Reuters wirephoto)

In Istanbul, Turkey, stores selling household items like quilts gradually disappeared as the area focused on tourists looking for orientalia.

Until 15 years ago all customers were Turks. Now 90 per cent of our customers are foreign tourists," said Onder Somer, secretary-general of the Grand Bazaar Shopkeeper's Association and the fourth generation of Somers working in the bazaar.

"We were selling furniture in our seven shops. Now we sell leather in four of them and clothes in the other three," he said.

Damascus, Syria's capital, retains only a tenth of its brassmakers.

"It's a tiring profession, people don't want to do it," said one.

It can take a year of painstaking labour to pound together a brass and silver coffee brazier. Wealthy Arabs will pay up to \$10,000 for a particularly ornate one.

Ghassan Nasrallah, director of the administration for Damascus' old monuments, said demand for medicinal herbs, perfume and traditional clothes has tumbled, though a few shops remain.

Modernisation

"Everything is changing in a fever of modernisation, the cancer eating everything," said Hassan Zahaby, a Damascus merchant. "You may be an excellent craftsman, but your son is interested in computers."

In most bazaars, stores remain grouped like medieval guilds. The tent makers share a street as do the nut sellers, the gold merchants, and those selling silk or coffee or discount underwear.

They were originally lodged in Khans or wekals, large buildings constructed around a courtyard with rooms for sleeping upstairs and trading downstairs.

But trade gradually flowed out of the Khans, now the province of the wholesalers, to the surrounding warren of streets.

A 15th century traveller to Cairo claimed the city contained more than 30 souks and 12,000 shops. There are less than 5,000 in each of the three big cities now.

Turkey's Sultan Mehmet the conqueror ordered the construction of the Istanbul bazaar in 1461, eight years after capturing the city, to improve its economy. For 300 years it spread down the hills below the major mosques and palaces.

Many street names reflect dead crafts. There is a street for fizzes and turbans, weavers of rush mats and makers of looking glasses.

Landmark

Damascus was capital of the Islamic world during the Omayyid Dynasty of the 7th and 8th centuries, and was again the capital of a major kingdom around 1200. Landmark mosques, tombs and khans are interspersed among the stores.

The mixture of history and souvenir hunting that draws tourists makes for brutal real estate prices in ancient streets where expansion is impossible. Buildings, most privately owned, rarely change hands.

A lease costs at least \$80,000 in Cairo, or between \$150,000 and \$350,000 in Damascus. A shop in the main bazaar in Istanbul was recently sold for \$2.1 million, newspapers reported.

Swedes call back envoy over hanging

STOCKHOLM, July 13, (UPI) — Sweden recalled its ambassador to Iraq yesterday after Baghdad authorities announced they had hanged a Swedish citizen for spying on behalf of Israel, Sweden's foreign minister said.

"It is with deep anger and sorrow that I have learned of the execution in Baghdad of a Swedish citizen," said Foreign Minister Sten Andersson.

Andersson said he had recalled Sweden's ambassador to Baghdad for consultations following Iraq's announcement that it had hanged Jalil Mahdi Al Neamy, an Iraqi-born naturalised Swede with a Swedish wife and 12-year-old daughter.

In diplomatic terms, recalling an ambassador for consultations falls just short of breaking off diplomatic relations.

"The death penalty is an abominable thing irrespective of the crime. The execution of a Swedish citizen must be strongly condemned," Andersson said.

He went on to severely condemn Iraq's refusal to hear Sweden's requests for clemency and said relations between the two countries had been seriously harmed.

Coins commemorating Palestine being promoted in US as 'gift to be proud of'

WASHINGTON, July 13, (Kuna) — The State of Palestine might not exist on the ground yet, but it certainly now exists in new commemorative gold, silver and bronze coins that are now being marketed here in the United States to Americans as "a gift to be proud of."

The coin's promoters also described the new coins as a "handsome memento of the most significant date in Palestinian history since the exodus from Palestine in 1948."

The coins in question depict on one side a seven-leaf olive branch. On the other, a text in classical

Arabic script reads, "declaration of the independence of the State of Palestine, November 15, 1988."

Crafted by expert goldsmiths after a design by Palestinian artist Kamal Boullala, the State of Palestine commemorative coin can be mounted as a striking pendant, impressive desk furnishing, opulent wall display or distinctive money-clip, attested by a certificate of authenticity.

While one side of the coin manifests the grace of Arabic calligraphy, recalling a date to be celebrated in years to come, the reverse of the coin shows an

olive branch with seven leaves, a symbol rich in significance.

Carefully tended as a family and national resource through the ages, the olive tree appears throughout the uplands of Palestine. Individual trees reach back into history, often attaining several hundred years of age.

The fruit of the olive tree gives savour to meals, while the oil, from time immemorial one of the bases of Palestinian cuisine, once also fuelled the lamps that brightened Palestinian homes.

The coin is available in the American market in 24

karat gold, sterling silver, and bronze. The gold and silver coins are individually encased in specially designed jewellery boxes. The three-coin set comes with a handsome display of jewellery box.

At present, the gold coin is selling for \$300, the sterling silver coin for \$60 and the bronze coin for \$12.

The three-coin set of gold, silver and bronze can be bought, however, for \$360. It is being marketed by a company called "Invisions Inc." in Olathe, Kansas.

SUBCONTINENT

157 killed as Lanka fighting intensifies

58 soldiers die when rebels take over Kokkavil military camp

COLOMBO, July 13, (AP): At least 157 people were killed in the past two days as fighting escalated throughout Sri Lanka, according to government and rebel statements today.

In fighting in the north and east, 148 people were killed, military officials and a rebel statement said.

In the south, at least nine people were killed in what could be a resurgence of an ultranationalist Sinhalese campaign against the government, police said.

Tamil Tiger rebels lost 40 men when soldiers attacked and captured two guerrilla camps near the eastern port of Trincomalee yesterday.

said military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity. At least 33 more Tigers were killed when navy gunboats destroyed six rebel boats in a lagoon, they said.

At least 45 soldiers were killed on Wednesday night and Thursday when the rebels overran the Kokkavil military camp in the north, they said.

The government had said all but two of the 60 soldiers at the camp were killed, but revised the toll today after a survivor reported that 15 men had escaped into the jungle around Kokkavil.

A statement from the Tigers said 45 soldiers and 18 rebels were killed in the battle for the Kokkavil camp, about 290 kilometres (180 miles) northeast of Colombo. The statement, issued by the Tigers' London office, was telexed to newspaper and news agency offices in Colombo.

In scattered fighting around Kokkavil today, at least eight rebels were killed, military officials said. Also, four soldiers were killed in other fighting, they said.

The killings raise to 2,393 the number of combatants killed since fighting resumed last month. Many civilians have also died.

Tamils, who make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million population, began fighting for a separate nation in 1983, claiming discrimination in jobs, education and language by the majority Sinhalese.

Sinhalese form 75 per cent of the population and dominate the military and the government.

The insurrection has killed at least 13,400 people.

In India, government officials said the fighting in Sri Lanka was causing an influx of Tamil refugees into southern India.

Also today, a group of men dressed in black uniforms killed nine members of three families in southern Sri Lanka, which is dominated by the majority Sinhalese community, said police officials.

The killings, in the village of Karadeniya, 150 kilometres (95 miles) south of Colombo, were linked to a Sinhalese campaign against the government, the officials said. The movement was almost wiped out last winter after ultranationalist Sinhalese leaders were killed by security forces.

Meanwhile, at a press conference in Colombo Thursday, State Minister for Defence, Ranjan Wijeratne, said the government will set up civil administration in the eastern province which had broken down since the war started in the area on June 11.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa's Secretary K.H.G. Wijedasa, visited the eastern Ampara district Wednesday with a team of top-level administrators to set up civil administration in motion, Wijeratne said.

When mopping up operations are over in the Trincomalee and Batticaloa districts, too, civil administration will commence functioning, the state minister added.

Commenting on security operations in the northern province, Wijeratne said the LTTE is now in the process of isolating the Tamil and the Muslim people in Mannar.

Greece police arrest 105 on grounded ship

ATHENS, July 13, (Reuters): A ship carrying 226 Pakistani, Indian and Sri Lankan nationals from Lebanon to Greece was detained on Wednesday after it was grounded off Cape Sounion south of Athens.

The port authority at nearby Lavrion port said 105 were arrested, 55 remained on the boat which was taken to Piraeus and 66 were thought to have escaped.

Authorities said they made a surprise visit to the boat after noticing suspicious speedboats moving in the area and found that none of the passengers had proper travelling documents.

The unidentified Syrian captain of the ship, which was not flying any flag, said he and his eight crew members picked up their passengers in Lebanon and were destined for Piraeus until a breakdown grounded them.

Benazir blocking refugee repatriation, says son of Zia-ul-Haq

DHAKA, Bangladesh, July 13, (AP): A Pakistani opposition leader accused Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government of blocking the repatriation to Pakistan of 250,000 refugees stranded in Bangladesh.

In an interview published Friday in the Bangladesh Observer, Ijaz-ul-Haq, son of the late Pakistani president Zia-ul-Haq, said he would petition Pakistan's Supreme Court for the return of the refugees. They have been housed in camps in Bangladesh since the country's independence from Pakistan in 1971.

About 250,000 Urdu-speaking Muslims, known as Biharis after the region in India from which they originated, have remained in more than 70 refugee camps.

The Biharis opted for Pakistan when the Bangladesh government asked them to choose a nationality after independence. Their repatriation has since been a contentious issue between Dhaka and Islamabad.

Though Zia-ul-Haq, who was killed in 1988 in a mysterious plane crash, set up a trust to

raise money for the repatriation, Mrs Bhutto refused to take the refugees to Pakistan when she visited Bangladesh last year, Ijaz said.

"There should not be any problem for taking the stranded Biharis to Pakistan," Ijaz was quoted as saying. "They have legal and moral rights to be repatriated to Pakistan."

Ijaz, who quit his career as a banker to enter politics after his father's death, is leading a 19-member delegation of opposition politicians and journalists to Bangladesh.

4 killed in Kashmir

24-hour curfew imposed

SRINAGAR, July 13, (UPI): Separatist violence in the troubled Kashmir valley left at least four people dead today, and a 24-hour curfew prevented Muslims from publicly celebrating "Martyrs Day," witnesses and official sources said.

Official sources said separatist militants today shot dead two civilians in the border town of Handwara, 45 miles (70 km) north of Srinagar, and a civilian in Anantnag, about 30 miles (50 km) to the south.

No further details were available, but official sources said all three had probably been killed because they were suspected police informers.

In a separate incident in Bijbehara, 25 miles (40 km) south of Srinagar, militants threw a grenade at a security force vehicle. Officials said one soldier was critically injured in the attack, but a witness said the man died at the scene.

Violence has rocked the picturesque Kashmir valley, home to the region's 4 million Muslims, since mid-January, when a 2-year-old secessionist movement gained widespread popular support after security forces opened fire on a group of demonstrators.

Since then, more than 600 people have been killed in bombings, arson attacks and assassinations. Tens of thousands of Indian troops and security force personnel deployed to the region have failed to crush the movement.

Today's violence came as

security forces enforced a 24-hour curfew in the Kashmir valley.

Militants had called for demonstrations today, a public holiday called "Martyrs Day," but authorities apparently feared that the outdoor gatherings might lead to violence and imposed the curfew.

The curfew and thousands of soldiers patrolling the streets also prevented Muslims from attending Friday prayers in Srinagar and other towns in the valley.

In Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state, 400 miles (640 km) north of New Delhi, a Hindu human rights activist issued a statement condemning the central government's tactics in subduing the Kashmir separatist movement.

"The security forces, instead of providing security to innocent people, are resorting to large scale arson, wholesale destruction of villages... (and) mass humiliation of women," said Inder Mohan, the human rights activist. "Scores of young men have been forcibly lifted away and their family members are feeling agonised regarding their whereabouts."

Kashmiris have routinely accused security forces of improper and often brutal behaviour.

Mohan said Kashmiris are "solidly determined" in their fight for separation.

"They are participating in a

well-organised movement," he said. "They will fight for their fundamental, social, economic, political and human rights until they succeed."

Also, a government spokesman said today that police raided a house in the old city section of Srinagar and arrested two suspected militants last night. The spokesman said 15 automatic rifles, two pistols and about 2,700 rounds of ammunition were recovered in the raid.

In a separate incident, authorities arrested 13 suspected militants near the Indo-Pakistan border when they tried to cross into Pakistan, the spokesman said.

India has repeatedly accused Pakistan of arming and training militants engineering the separatist movement. Although Pakistan denies the allegation, it admits to providing moral support for the movement.

Militants, who are supported by virtually all Kashmiri Muslims, claim separation from India is necessary because successive Hindu-dominated administrations in New Delhi have consistently ignored the interests of Kashmiris.

They also complain that New Delhi reneged on a promise to hold a plebiscite so Kashmiris could decide if they wanted to remain a part of India or join neighbouring Pakistan. Many militant groups advocate independence.

Opposition begins protests

Ershad offers talks

DHAKA, July 13, (AP): President Hussain Muhammad Ershad offered yesterday to talk with the opposition about a presidential election next year, while his opponents said they would proceed with a 17-day campaign against him.

Ershad said he was prepared for a dialogue to answer charges he had rigged previous presidential and parliamentary elections.

"We are prepared to sit with all concerned for holding free and fair elections," he said. He is willing to discuss any changes in election law the opposition suggests, he said.

However, the opposition began its anti-Ershad campaign yesterday with rallies and meetings in rural areas.

"At this stage we are drumming up support for our movement," said Mujahidul Islam Selin, an opposition leader. "Also, activists are being

Bugs kill 30 in Dhaka

DHAKA, July 13, (AP): A mysterious, diamond-shaped insect whose bite can kill within four hours had claimed the lives of at least 30 people and attacked hundreds of others in the past month, doctors and newspapers said yesterday.

Panick-stricken villagers are destroying the bushy, fast-growing plants that harbour the insects.

The impoecora crassicaulis plant is found in flood-prone Bangladesh, where its roots help check soil erosion. The plant usually grows up to 10 feet (3 metres) but has no food value.

A government-owned newspaper, Dainik Bangla, said the diamond-shaped insect that feeds on the plant's leaves has killed at least 30 people nationwide. Many of the victims were children who played in the bushes.

mobilised for a big thrust against Ershad."

The campaign is expected to culminate in a nation-wide protest on July 29, he said.

Ershad, a former army general, has said he may be a candidate for next May's elections. "This will be my last tenure in

office," he said yesterday. "And I myself want the elections to be free and fair."

The opposition accuses Ershad and his Jatiya, or People's Party of rigging presidential and parliamentary elections since he took power in a bloodless coup in 1982.

Epidemic spreads in Nepal, 82 dead

KATHMANDU, July 13, (UPI): The death toll from an epidemic of gastroenteritis and cholera reached 82 today, as government officials threatened action against entrepreneurs believed to be hoarding a treatment.

The diseases, which are blamed on contaminated drinking water and kill their victims by causing severe diarrhoea, have spread throughout the country and have been hospitalising about 300 people each day in the capital, officials said.

The Health Ministry said it has learned that traders have been aggravating the epidemic by "trying to create an artificial shortage of jeewan jal," a medication given to victims of diarrhoeal diseases.

Jeewan jal is a mixture of salt and sugar that is added to water to create a rehydration mixture that is fed to diarrhoea victims.

Government officials said the traders have been hiding jeewan jal to increase their sales of water purifiers manufactured abroad.

Latest reports said 19 persons died in the past month of gastroenteritis in the western Nepal district of Syangha, the official National News Agency said today.

Two people have died in the nearby district of Yamechhap, where the lack of medicine is helping the epidemic spread to villages, the news agency said.

Four others have died in the eastern Nepal district of Sindhupalchok, officials reported.

Gastroenteritis and cholera previously were reported to have killed 57 people in two other western Nepal districts and in Kathmandu.

Airbus to fly again in India

NEW DELHI, July 13, (AP): The Indian Airlines Airbus-320 jetliners grounded after a fatal crash last February will return to the skies next week, the Civil Aviation Ministry says.

At least 91 of the 146 people aboard one of the jets were killed in a crash last Feb 14 at Bangalore airport in southern India.

Soon after the accident the government grounded the airlines' remaining 14 Airbus-320s pending an investigation.

Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammad Khan told reporters during a demonstration flight of the A-320 from New Delhi to Hyderabad, that the planes would be reintroduced in phases beginning Monday.

Khan said all precautions were being taken to ensure safe flying, but he did not elaborate.

Each A-320 plane, manufactured by the European consortium Airbus Industrie, cost \$38 million. The 150-seat plane is world's only passenger aircraft with computerised flight control capabilities.

The government has not yet made public its report on the Bangalore crash.



Women protest

Kashmiri Muslim women shout anti-India slogans during protest in Srinagar against the harassment of women by the security forces during searches. (Reuters wirephoto)

Chautala returns

Major blows to Singh's image

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, July 13: Incredible as it may sound, Om Prakash Chautala returned as chief minister of Haryana yesterday, less than two months after he was forced to quit by rising public opinion against his role in the Mehram election violence.

The net result of the day-long political drama was that Prime Minister V.P. Singh and the Janata Dal suffered major blows to their images as practitioners of value-based politics, though sources close to Singh maintained he had nothing to do with the series of events.

It all began with Banarasi Das Gupta making a surprise announcement early yesterday morning about his decision to quit. He gave no reasons immediately but it soon became clear that he had stepped aside to pave the way for Chautala to return. By evening, the Haryana Janata Dal legislature party met in Delhi and elected Chautala as its leader. A little later, he was sworn in chief minister for a second time by Governor Dhanik Lal Mandal, who flew in to the national capital for the purpose.

In fact, Chautala himself was some 300 kilometres away touring some flood affected areas of Haryana when Gupta resigned, and a special aircraft was sent to fetch him to Delhi.

Soon after Gupta resigned as chief minister, Chautala was named by Janata Dal president S.R. Bommai as one of its six new general secretaries. He also continues to be president of the Haryana unit of the party, and it is not immediately clear if he will quit the party posts in keeping with the principle of "one-man-one-post."

It is more than clear that Chautala has bounced back to power due to the continuous efforts made by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, his father. Devi Lal was never quite reconciled to the manner in which his first-born was ousted from the chief ministership at the instance of the party high command and regarded it as a personal affront.

There are differing versions about Prime Minister Singh's stand on the whole issue, and it is not clear if Chautala's return has his support. Singh hosted a dinner for Devi Lal a few days ago here in a bid to sort out their differences. According to some, Chautala's reinstatement was one of the specifics discussed at the meeting. Some newspapers also reported that the leaders had worked out a package, which included inducting Devi Lal's younger son Ranjit Singh as a member of the Rajya Sabha and the appointment of a close relative as an ambassador.

Sources close to Devi Lal argue that if Chautala was good enough to be made a party general secretary, what was wrong in his being made chief minister of Haryana. Further, in between, Chautala was elected to the state assembly from another constituency, Darba Kalan, with a large majority. In recent days, Devi Lal has been taking the Janata Dal's ally, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) head on in a verbal battle, and has challenged it to fight fresh elections in Haryana. Chautala's return might also indicate an early mid-term poll in the state in a bid to cut the BJP's influence in the state.

There is another version which would have people believe that Singh has really pulled a fast one on Devi Lal this time, hoping that Chautala's return would

build up public opinion so strongly against Devi Lal and his clan and finish them politically. Whatever the truth, the fact is that the party's image has taken a severe beating.

Along with Chautala, four ministers were also sworn in. They are Hukum Singh (deputy chief minister), Sampat Singh, Dhiral Singh and Jagannath. All four were ministers during Chautala's first term and later under Gupta's short-lived tenure of 51 days.

At a press conference after the swearing-in, Chautala sought to give the impression that his return had the consent of the prime minister. Asked if his comeback would not harm Singh's image, Chautala said he would be the first to sacrifice everything for the sake of the prime minister's reputation.

Earlier, Gupta said he had resigned in deference to the party leadership's wishes. According to him, Devi Lal wanted him to play a larger role in national politics, and so did Singh.

Chautala, in a lighter vein, thanked the media for making his name known far and wide.

Apart from Chautala, the other new general secretaries of the Janata Dal are S. Jaipal Reddy, former minister Puroshottam Kaushik, S.P. Malaviya, Mahfooz Ali Khan and Gopal Pachherwal. Reddy was the candidate against Bommai for the post of interim president the latter being Devi Lal's choice. Ultimately, Reddy was persuaded to withdraw from the contest to avoid a sharp divide in the party.

Shakilur Rehman is the new vice-president of the party. He is a noted Urdu writer and former vice-chancellor of Mithila University.

ensuring our trading relationship continues to expand." Australian Foreign Affairs Minister Gareth Evans said at the brief signing ceremony.

"Under this agreement, Australia and Pakistan will support commercial ventures in exploring and concluding mutually beneficial long-term arrangements for the purchase of goods, particularly commodities."

\$200m Indo-Saudi joint plant in Jordan

NEW DELHI, July 13, (Kumar): India and Saudi Arabia are setting up \$200 million phosphoric plant in Jordan. The unit will have capacity of 400,000 tonnes.

The plant is being set up by the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC) in collaboration with Southern Petrochemical Industries Company (SPIC) of Saudi Arabia.

Pakistan, Australia sign trade pact

CANBERRA, July 13, (AP): Australia and Pakistan signed a joint trade agreement yesterday calling for study of ways to expand trade ties and overcoming potential problems.

The pact established a joint committee to review the state of bilateral trade.

"This initiative will strengthen and diversify trade of both traditional and potential exports with the aim of

Deaf Pakistani indicted in triple murder

PATERSON, New Jersey, July 13, (AP): A deaf Pakistani immigrant was arraigned yesterday on charges of fatally stabbing an immigrant family of deaf-mutes, authorities said.

A sign-language interpreter and an Urdu translator were in superior court to help Abdul Qodoos, 26, who is deaf, understand the proceedings, said Passaic county assistant prosecutor Steven J. Brizek.

Qodoos was indicted July 2 on three counts of murder, felony murder, weapons offenses, robbery, burglary, theft and endangering the welfare of a

child. He is accused of killing Mieczyslaw Turzynski, 61, a Polish immigrant; his son, Kazimierz Turzynski, 35; and his Singapore-born wife, Kui Yin Lee Turzynski, 39, on March 17, officials said.

County authorities this week announced they would seek the death penalty against Qodoos because of the murder counts, and because he also placed the 18-month-old daughter of Kazimierz and Kui Yin Lee Turzynski at risk of death.

The baby was found in the victims' apartment a week after the slayings.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Bush briefs cabinet on summit results

'We're very satisfied'; 'everybody was basically upbeat...'

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): President George Bush won a round of applause from his cabinet yesterday and briefed congressional leaders about a week of summitry on two continents where he says US positions got "good consideration."

"We're very satisfied," Bush told reporters on Wednesday night on the flight home from Houston, Texas, after a three-day summit with leaders of six other major industrial democracies.

The president was greeted by an ovation from his cabinet at the first of two briefings on the Houston talks and the earlier North Atlantic

Treaty Organisation summit in London. He then reviewed the summit results in a separate session with leaders of both parties of Congress.

Afterward, congressman Dante Fascell, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said everybody was "basically upbeat ... about what the United States was able to accomplish" in London and Houston.

The Nato summit adopted changes that show "the Soviets need not fear Nato," Fascell said, adding that Bush was "absolutely right" to insist on further Soviet reforms as a condition of any direct US assistance.

Bush declined to say whether he had yet telephoned Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, as he had promised earlier, to explain the Houston decision to bolster the distressed Soviet economy with financial aid as each summit leader deems appropriate. White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater indicated Bush had not made the call.

Bush balked at direct US cash assistance to Moscow, but said he had cabled Gorbachev the message that "the results of this summit were positive as far as the Soviet Union went." Bush also congratulated Gorbachev on his victory in the Communist Party Congress.

The president said he was surprised by the size of Gorbachev's victory "just because I've been reading speculative pieces that he was on the ropes ... I think it's a good omen and good for stability in the country."

Bush returned to the White House 13 days after he left for a six-day break in Kennebunkport, Maine, then journeyed to London for the Nato meeting and on to Houston for the economic summit.

The Nato summit ended with the allies approving the US blueprint for revamping the alliance's military strategy and united on German troop limits — both moves intended to allay Soviet apprehension about letting East Germany join Nato.

The seven Western powers left Houston united on the need for technical assistance for the struggling Soviet economy, but without endorsing the German and French proposals for co-ordinated Western assistance.

The Group of Seven leaders also forged a last-minute compromise that kept alive hopes of reducing agricultural subsidies and avoided a showdown on global warming.

Bush said his colleagues from Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada all "left in very much of an upbeat mood."

In another development, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher hinted on Wednesday she may invite Soviet President Gorbachev to next year's G-7 economic summit in Britain.

Thatcher, who will host the July meeting of the world's leading industrialised democracies in London, was asked if she planned to match last week's Nato summit in the British capital. "I do not think we need address that question yet," she told Britain's independent television at the end of the three-day Houston summit. "Let us get a little bit closer to the time. We will address that nearer the time."

Thatcher shakes hands with Gorbachev. (Reuters wirephoto)



Oh No! Composite file photos of Britain's Trade and Industry Secretary Nicholas Ridley who in a magazine article has accused Germany of trying to take over Europe and said giving sovereignty to the European Community was like giving in to Adolf Hitler. (Reuters wirephoto)



Ridley returns under attack

Criticised West Germany of seeking to dominate Europe

LONDON, July 13, (AP): British Trade Secretary Nicholas Ridley returns today under attack for accusing West Germany of seeking to dominate Europe and comparing common market institutions with Adolf Hitler.

Aides to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher indicated today that she would leave it up to Ridley whether to resign, according to Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency.

Mrs Thatcher has not spoken to Ridley since the controversy erupted. Press Association quoted aides as saying, "Ridley, who has been on a trade visit to Hungary, cancelled plans for a news conference this morning."

He had withdrawn his controversial remarks hours after they were published yesterday in the Spectator, a weekly London magazine of politics and current affairs.

His outspoken interview produced angry reaction both in Germany and at home and British newspapers predicted today that

Ridley's cabinet career, begun in 1983, was about to end.

European Community officials declined to comment on the statements by Ridley, who inferred that fighting Hitler was preferable to dealing with the economic challenge embodied by West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In Bonn, Lutz Stavenhagen, a senior aide to Kohl, described the statement as "scandalous," "insulting" and "unprecedented."

Mrs Thatcher fielded a volley of complaints during her obligatory question hour in the lower house of Parliament. Opposition politicians demanded the resignation of Ridley, who is touring Hungary.

She repeatedly told members to accept Ridley's declaration that after reflection, he regretted the remarks, and "unreservedly withdraw them."

Opposition members would not accept the retraction, and said Britain could not have its highest ranking trade official holding such

strident views against West Germany, Britain's largest trading partner.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said Ridley's remarks were "not just deeply offensive to our allies and partners, but deeply damaging to our country's interests. That man must go."

He said Ridley remained in the cabinet because "his views are her views."

Thatcher replied that Ridley, who is renowned for sharing most stances with the British leader, had made statements that "did not represent the government's view, nor indeed my own view."

She complimented Bonn on how it ran its economy, and said Britain had taken steps to improve international co-operation.

Kinnock retorted that on this basis, Ridley should be sacked for making comments so deeply divergent with the official line.

Margaret Ewing, leader of the Scottish National Party, said Ridley's "unneighbourly attitude" was "the worst example of little Englander behaviour that we have seen."

E. German firms agree to protect jobs

East German factories hit by strikes called by a powerful West German labour union agreed yesterday in a new contract to raise wages and protect the jobs of 350,000 workers.

The contract is the biggest negotiated since East Germany formally entered the free market on July 1 and merged its economy with West Germany's.

The agreement came after a 47-hour bargaining session that ended early yesterday. (AP)

US Congress must act quickly on debt

The Treasury told Congress on Wednesday it must boost the federal debt limit to \$3.51 trillion before it begins its August recess or a first-ever government default likely will occur before lawmakers return in September.

The current debt limit is \$3.12 trillion and the debt reached 3.09 trillion on Monday. The nation's debt topped \$3 trillion for the first time last April.

Treasury's current estimates show that the permanent ceiling of \$3.12 trillion will be sufficient only until mid-August. Treasury Undersecretary Robert R. Glauber told the House Ways and Means Committee. (AP)

Con artists take \$1 billion

Con artists using bogus Pacific island banks and Central American "boiler room" operations have taken small US investors for more than \$1 billion over the last two years, according to state stock regulators.

Crooks, mostly US-based promoters falsely claiming to be involved with overseas investment programmes, have victimised US consumers for \$1.1 billion, according to a study by the North American Securities Administrators Association.

The 100-page report by the organisation of state-level Securities Regulators was presented on Thursday before a House of Representatives subcommittee looking into telemarketing fraud. (AP)

Nynex raises phone bill questions

Bachchanian bashes featuring prostitutes were annual staples for Nynex telephone company employees, and an investigation is under way to determine if the parties cost customers money, the Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday.

The meetings, held for one week each year in Florida from 1984-88, allegedly involved improper contact between employees of Materiel Enterprises Co., the purchasing unit of New York telephone corporate parent Nynex, and about 30 company suppliers, the journal said.

Authorities are trying to determine if there was a connection between supply orders and party attendance, and whether any deals made in Florida resulted in higher phone rates, the newspaper reported. It said much of the tab for the parties was picked up by the suppliers. (AP)



Trademark

Parliament passed the last reading of a trademark bill toughening measures against sellers of producers of pirate goods in response to demands from the United States, senior Thai and US officials said yesterday.

Once the bill passes two more readings, producers of goods imitating international brands will face a fine of up to \$16,000 and four years in prison, while sellers will face half those penalties.

Picture shows a street vendor showing some of the lake Rolex watches he is selling in Bangkok. (Reuters wirephoto)

Greece sees EMS membership by 1993

Greece will become a full member of the European Monetary System in 1993 if new government fiscal measures pay off, central bank governor Dimitris Halikias said on Thursday.

"If the situation develops in line with the government's three-year plan then Greece will be in a position to join the EMS fixed exchange rate mechanism in 1993," he said.

The conservative government's three-year economic programme aims for single-digit inflation by 1993 and a public sector borrowing requirement representing less than 10 per cent of Gross Domestic Product.

Inflation reached 21.7 per cent in June. The public sector borrowing requirement for 1989 was 18.1 per cent of GDP, or 1.6 trillion drachmas (\$9.8 billion).

HOUSTON, July 13, (Reuters): Following is a partial text of the final communique issued at the summit of the Group of Seven leading industrial democracies.

1. ... [We] celebrate the renaissance of democracy throughout much of the world. We welcome unreservedly the spread of multiparty democracy, the practise of free elections, the freedom of expression and assembly, the increased respect for human rights, the rule of law, and the increasing recognition of the principles of the open and competitive economy. These values proclaim loudly man's inalienable rights: When people are free to choose, they choose freedom ...

4. Around the world, we are determined to assist other people to achieve and sustain economic prosperity and political freedom. We will support their efforts with our experience, resources, and goodwill ...

The international economic situation

5. ... Unemployment remains high in a number of countries. Inflation, although considerably lower than in the early 1980s, is a matter of serious concern in some countries and requires considerable vigilance. External imbalances have been reduced in the United States and Japan, whereas in other countries they have increased. Continuing adjustment remains a requirement in order to counter protectionist pressures. Alleviate uncertainties in financial and exchange markets, and contribute to avoiding pressures on interest rates ...

6. In the developing world ... serious efforts — in some cases by new leadership — to implement economic adjustment and market-oriented policies have begun to yield positive results and should be continued ...

International monetary developments and policy co-ordination

14. We welcome the prospect of a unified, democratic Germany which enjoys full sovereignty without discriminatory constraints. German economic, monetary, and social union will contribute to improved non-inflationary global growth and to a reduction of external imbalances. This process will promote positive economic developments in central and eastern Europe ...

Measures aimed at economic efficiency

16. We emphasise the widespread need for further steps to promote regulatory reform and liberalise areas such as retail trade, telecommunications, transport, labour markets and financial markets, as well as to reduce industrial and agricultural subsidies, improve tax systems, and improve labour-force skills through education and training ...

The international trading system

19. The successful outcome of the Uruguay round of trade talks has the highest priority on the international economic agenda. Consequently, we stress our determination to take the difficult political decisions necessary to achieve far-reaching, substantial results in all areas of the Uruguay round by the end of this year. We instruct our negotiators to make progress and in particular to agree on the complete profile of the final package by the July meeting of the trade negotiations committee ...

21. As regards agriculture, achieving the long-term objective of the agricultural policies is critical to permit the greater liberalisation of trade in agricultural products. Experience has shown the high cost of agricultural policies which tend to create surpluses. The outcome of the GATT negotiations on agriculture should lead to a better balance between supply and demand and ensure that agricultural policies do not impede the effective functioning of international markets. We therefore reaffirm our commitment to the long-term objective of the reform, i.e., to allow market signals to influence agricultural production, and to establish a fair and market-oriented agricultural trading system.

22. The achievement of this objective requires each of us to make substantial, progressive reductions in support and protection of agriculture — covering internal regimes, market access, and export subsidies ... the negotiations on agriculture should therefore be conducted in a framework that ... should contain specific assurances that ... participants would reduce not only internal support but also export subsidies and import protection in a related way.

23. Agreement on such a framework by the time of the July meeting of the trade negotiations committee is critical to the successful completion of the Uruguay round as a whole. Accordingly, we commend to our negotiators the text submitted by the chairman of the agricultural negotiating group as a means to intensify the negotiations.

Reform in Central and Eastern Europe

34. We and other countries should assist Central and Eastern European nations that are firmly committed to economic and political reform. Those providing help should favour countries that implement such reforms ...

US retail sales up

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): Retail sales, bolstered by a big jump in department store sales, shot up 0.5 per cent in June, posting the first increase in five months, the government said today.

The Commerce Department said sales rose to a seasonally adjusted \$147.82 billion last month, up \$784 million from May.

The June increase came after three consecutive declines, something that had not happened since 1981, during the last recession.

Declining food prices hold US inflation to 0.2pc; inflation up in Britain

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): Declining food and energy prices helped hold wholesale price inflation to a modest 0.2 per cent in June, despite a worrisome jump in the cost of other items, the government said today.

The rise in the Labour Department's producer price index for finished goods one stop short of the retail level followed a rise in May of 0.3 per cent.

It brought wholesale inflation for the first half of 1990 to an annual rate of 3.7 per cent, compared with 4.8 per cent for all of 1989.

The number was about what economists

anticipated. However, prices for items outside the volatile food and energy sectors jumped 0.6 per cent in June, the steepest increase in a year and about double the expected rise.

Analysts consider this so-called "core" rate a better indicator of underlying inflation pressures in the economy. However the jump follows a string of five moderate rises of 0.3 per cent or 0.2 per cent.

Automobile costs rose after months of generally flat or falling prices.

Energy prices, which skyrocketed 13.7 per cent in January because of a severe cold snap, have declined

every month since. They were down 0.9 per cent in June after dropping 1 per cent in May. Fuel oil fell 10.5 per cent and gasoline was down 1.3 per cent. Natural gas costs rose 0.4 per cent.

Food prices lowered for the third time in four months. They dropped 0.4 per cent last month after a 0.6 per cent increase in May.

Prices for both fresh fruit and eggs jumped 6.7 per cent and vegetable prices rose 2.5 per cent. But, prices fell sharply for pasta, 7.4 per cent; pork, 3.4 per cent; chicken, 5.8 per cent; and fish, 14.7 per cent.

The fairly soft increase in prices excluding food

and energy could put a crimp in Federal Reserve plans to lower interest rates. The central bank usually attempts to quell inflation by slowing demand with high interest rates.

Yesterday, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan strongly suggested that he would cut rates to counter the dampening effects of an apparent pullback in bank lending.

Meanwhile, Britain's retail prices rose 0.1 per cent in June, pushing the annual inflation rate to 4.8 per cent, its highest level in eight years, the government said today.

Kuwaiti dinars exchange rates

GENEVA, July 13, (Kunat): At the start of foreign exchange trading in Switzerland today, one Kuwaiti dinar was trading at 4.7828 Swiss francs, as against the closing rate yesterday of 4.8400, the Swiss-Kuwaiti Bank reported.

Against the dinar, the German mark opened at 5.6434 (\$7.1121), the pound sterling 1.8988 (1.9261), Japanese yen 506.6276 (\$11.4963), and the US dollar remained unchanged at 3.4364.

US will push interest rates lower

WASHINGTON, July 13, (AP): Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan suggested yesterday the US Central Bank will push interest rates lower to offset an emerging credit crunch.

His comments, to the Senate banking committee, launched rallies on the stock and bond markets and represented good news for President George Bush, who has been pounding on the Federal Reserve for months to cut interest rates.

The administration needs lower rates to counteract the dampening effect on the economy of Congress and the White House lower spending and raise taxes as part of a deficit-reduction pact.

Business owners have been saying since winter that banks have tightened lending standards in response to the savings and

loan crisis, a softer economy and weakening real estate markets.

Until yesterday, however, Greenspan had said the Central Bank saw little evidence of a broad-based credit crunch affecting the economy nationally.

In a sharp change from his assessment only three weeks ago, he told the committee that slow growth in the US money supply and an increase in average interest rates on commercial loans indicate credit conditions may be tightening independent of Central Bank action.

If that is in fact the case, it could have undesirable effects on the economy that the Federal Reserve would have to consider offsetting using monetary policy, he said.

Such a shift would produce "a very

modest change in the level of the federal funds rate," the key rate banks charge one another for overnight loans, he said.

Financial markets rallied within minutes of Greenspan's comments, shortly after noon (1600 GMT). The Dow Jones average of industrial stocks jumped 14 points within five minutes and held the gains through the afternoon to close at a record high.

The Federal Reserve raises interest rates to combat inflation by slowing the economy and lowers rates in an effort to pep up growth if the economy appears to be heading toward a recession.

Its policy has remained unchanged since late December, with the federal funds rate averaging around 8.25 per cent. Despite

that, Greenspan said there is "some evidence" commercial loan rates are edging higher.

This suggests a market tightening of modest dimensions, he said, adding, "we don't consider that a tightening at this stage would be desirable."

"It's not that we are seeing the economy eroding... it's that we're seeing that we're getting more credit tightening in the market than we had, as far as our policy stance is concerned, planned," he said.

"We are monitoring the situation on a day-by-day basis," he said.

It is rare for the Central Bank's chairman to so strongly signal the future direction of interest rates. Usually he declines comment on the subject or uses deliberately ambiguous language.

McDonnell may sell aircraft operations

Company burdened by debt

SEATTLE, July 13, (UPI): McDonnell Douglas Corp., burdened by a huge debt and poor performance on its production lines, may sell its multi-billion-dollar commercial aircraft operations, industry sources said yesterday.

Don Hanson, a spokesman at the company's Douglas Aircraft Co. division in Long Beach, California, denied that any sale of Douglas is pending. "McDonnell Douglas will not sell Douglas," he said. "I know of no such plans."

But a well-placed industry source who supplies parts to the company said he had received word from several upper-middle management employees at the Long Beach facility that the commercial aircraft operation is for sale.

The source, who requested anonymity, said Mitsubishi Heavy Industries of Japan has emerged as the most likely buyer.

But a Mitsubishi official in Japan said, "It is a surprise to us. We have no such plan. We cannot afford to buy them. It's unfounded speculation."

Still, sources said, John F. McDonnell, the chairman and chief executive officer of the St. Louis-based company, is expected to make a major announcement about the company today.

The sources also said Douglas employees have been told that they could participate today in a question-and-answer session with McDonnell, but the topic of the session was not disclosed. Hanson also denied that such a session had been scheduled.

"We've had rumors like this come by us before," Hanson said. "But John McDonnell has said on more than one occasion that the future of the company lies with Douglas Aircraft."

In 1989 the company's transport aircraft segment — which is largely composed of Douglas Aircraft — lost \$222 million on sales of \$4.74 billion, while the company as a whole earned \$219 million on revenues of \$14.58 billion.

The losses stem largely from the costs of developing two major aircraft production programmes at Douglas: the MD-11 jumbo jet and the C-17 cargo plane. Douglas hopes to begin deliveries of the MD-11, which first flew last January, by the end of this year following certification by the Federal Aviation Administration.

Douglas has received orders that would total about \$30 billion once the buyers exercise their options. Each plane has a price tag of about \$100 million.

The C-17 is scheduled to make its first flight by next June. Two months ago, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney recommended cutting back the C-17 programme from a previously planned 210 aircraft to 120, which would cut \$11.9 billion from the \$41.8 billion programme.

Business News Briefs

De Benedetti regains control: Industrialist Carlo de Benedetti has regained managerial control of leading Italian publisher Arnoldo Mondadori after a bitter seven-month battle to oust media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi.

Allies of De Benedetti, whose business empire includes computer maker Olivetti E.Ci Spa, took two of the top three executive posts in a managerial shake-up on Tuesday night. (Reuters)

Jordan tackles Petra Bank crisis: The Jordanian government on Wednesday ordered the transfer of all deposits from the troubled Petra Bank to the mainly state-owned Housing Bank, state-run Petra news agency said.

Bankers said the move was a de facto liquidation of Petra Bank, until recently one of Jordan's biggest commercial banks.

In an interview with the news agency, Central Bank Governor Mohammed Said Nabulsi assured Petra depositors that the Central Bank would guarantee their savings.

He told the news agency the interests of Petra Bank's 700 employees would be taken care of. (Reuters)

French takeover Motel Six: The French group Accor, a world-wide leader in the hotel, restaurant and service sectors, announced in Paris on Friday it was taking over the American Motel Six Corporation.

Accor is expected to make its takeover bid on the American group by next Wednesday, July 18, with 100 per cent of Motel Six shares estimated at some \$1.3 billion.

With the acquisition of Motel Six Corporation, which comprises 354 hotels all over the United States, Accor will become the number one hotel group in the world with a total of 160,000 hotel rooms under its control. (Kuna)

Polish investors fear scam: Dozens of angry investors besieged the office of a Polish financier on Wednesday after it closed for lack of funds and a newspaper reported the dealer may have vanished abroad.

The Solidarity daily Gazeta Wyborcza said employees of Lech Grobelny, once Warsaw's best-known black market currency dealer, had closed his BKO (safe savings bank) after telling a prosecutor it had run out of money.

"Creditors can make claims at the district court," said a sign on the door. Some of the 34 employees were inside but did not answer the doorbell or telephone. (Reuters)

Tri-lateral airline package: Singapore Airlines (SIA), Delta Airlines and Swissair have further extended their areas of co-operation with the launch of three joint fare packages early this month.

The packages offered by the three airlines, which last year formed the world's first "global airline alliance", are the round-the-world, circle trip excursion and trans-Atlantic easy fare.

The round-the-world package, priced at \$2,300 for departures from Singapore, globe-trotters can use any of the three airlines. Passengers have a choice of routing options with convenient connections. Debt-for-scholarship swap: Harvard University plans to buy about \$5 million of Ecuador's debt to finance scholarships for Ecuadorian students, officials said Wednesday.

"It's a rather special situation that provides a model that could be built on for other countries in similar circumstances," Harvard President Derek C. Bok said.

The elaborate "debt-for-scholarship swap" essentially converts a portion of Ecuador's \$11 billion foreign debt into cash for education.

Recession possible Loss of jobs

WASHINGTON, July 13, (Reuters): A mounting toll of job losses in US manufacturing industries may soon spread to the service sector and make the world's largest economy more vulnerable to recession, analysts say.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans in basic businesses from carmaking to metalworking have lost their jobs in the past year and that is slowly spreading fear among consumers who fuel expansion through their purchases.

"It's all part of a process in which economic activity seems to be grinding slowly to a halt," commented David Jones, chief economist with Aubrey Lansdon and Co. in New York.

Cautious consumers rein in spending because they worry about their job, plants by people off as sales declines and eventually the whole of the economy slows.

Manufacturing companies that make long-lasting durable goods account for 20 to 25 per cent of total job opportunities and they have long been seen as the backbone of America.

More foreign sales of US-made goods are seen as a possible saviour because of strong markets in countries like Germany, but may not be enough to offset seeping weakness at home. "The problem is we buy an awful lot more Mercedes than we do Chevrolets," Jones remarked.

The rest of the work opportunities are in service industries, not simply low-paying "bamburgh-flipper" jobs but also highly skilled health care, financial and real estate. Those jobs have been increasing, though more slowly in 1990, while manufacturing jobs shrink.

The Labour Department said last Friday that 30,000 US factory jobs were lost in June alone.

"Since the current slide in manufacturing employment began in the spring of 1989, job losses have totalled 335,000, with especially large declines in durable goods industries such as electrical equipment, autos, fabricated metals and machinery," said Janet Norwood, commissioner of the Bureau of Labour Statistics.

Somewhat ominously, says economist Jones, the pace of job growth in service industries also has begun to slow. Excluding temporary employees hired to count Americans for the 10-year census, service jobs have expanded by an average 122,000 a month for the past three months compared with 203,000 a month over the past 12 months.

"I don't say we're going to be in recession tomorrow," Jones said, "but it does suggest the economy is on a downward glide path perhaps towards a hard landing rather than the soft landing the Fed wants."

'I will not butt in,' says Bush

WASHINGTON, July 13, (UPI): President George Bush pledged Wednesday not to interfere in the investigation of his son Neil's role in the \$1 billion collapse of a Denver savings and loan but conceded, "this is not easy for me as a father."

The president's comments at the conclusion of the Houston economic summit occurred as a federal government agency said it was considering suing his son and others in the billion-dollar failure of Silverado Banking, Savings and Loan.

"I agree that the president ought to stay out of it and that the system ought to work," Bush said. "And I have great confidence in the integrity and honour of my son."

"And if he's done something wrong, the system will... digest that," he said.

At a news conference in Denver Wednesday, the younger Bush declined to speculate on the possibility of a lawsuit against him.

He reiterated his previous declaration of integrity saying, "I acted prudently, I acted responsibly, I acted and took my responsibilities seriously and acted with diligence."

News reports disclosed the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., the agency that insures deposits at the nation's banks and thrifts, is planning to press a \$200 million lawsuit against Neil Bush, a director at the Denver thrift seized by the government in 1988, and other officers.

\$1b losses

The reports said an FDIC suit, charging negligence and not fraud, would seek to recover some of the \$1 billion in losses — that taxpayers are being asked to make good — from speculative lending and other high-flying transactions at Silverado, making such a suit one of the largest claims ever filed by the government agency.

Despite his pledge to "let the system work," the president said, "this is not easy for me, as a father. It's easy for me as the president because the system is going to work and I will not intervene."

"I've not discussed this with any officials and suggested any outcome," he said, noting the Silverado case is taking its emotional toll on the first family.

"It's tough on people in public life to some degree," the president said. "And I've got three other sons and they all want to go to the barricades."

"They want to do what any other... kids would do. And I say, 'you calm down now, we're in a different role now. You can't react like you would if your brother was picked on in a street fight.' That's not the way the system works."

Alan Whitney, a spokesman for the FDIC, said, "no final decision has been made" on a Silverado lawsuit.

"We have acknowledged in the past we were investigating Silverado's failure to see if there were grounds for a suit against Silverado's officers, directors and others (such as) lawyers and accountants," Whitney added.

It is believed that the final decision on filing the suit would fall to FDIC chairman William Seidman, who has had bitter differences with the president over the bailout of the nation's battered savings industry.



US Attorney General Dick Thornburgh said Thursday that if the evidence warranted the US would prosecute Neil Bush, President Bush's son, accused of breaking rules as a director of savings and loan institution. (Reuters wirephoto)

OECD reports

Developing nations' debts

PARIS, July 13, (Kuna): Total external debt of developing countries increased to \$1,322 billion at the end of 1989, 39 billion more than at the end of 1988 but \$77 billion less than at the end of 1987, according to figures just released here by the Paris-based OECD.

Total debt service in 1989 amounted to \$170 billion, unchanged from the 1988 level, compared to 154 billion in 1987.

The debt service rise in 1988 was mainly attributed to higher international interest rates combined with repayments of past interest arrears to banks and export credit agencies.

The debt of European Least Development Countries (LDC) remained stable in 1989 at \$120 billion, with debt service rising from 19 billion in 1987 to 22 billion in 1989.

The debt of North Africa and the Middle East, some 215 billion both in 1988 and 1989, was made up largely of commercial finance with total export credits and bank loans accounting for nearly 75 per cent of that total, and a further 9 per cent representing Development Assistance Committee (DAC) and Official Development Assistance (ODA) debt, mainly to Egypt and Israel.

Debt service payments for that group of countries were largely conditional on changes in international interest rates and total debt service rose from \$25 billion dollars in 1987 to an estimated 32 billion in 1989.

Second time in 14 months

Japan's trade surplus widens

TOKYO, July 13, (AP): Japan's trade surplus expanded 28 per cent in June to \$6.72 billion, only the second time in 14 months it had climbed from a year earlier, the Ministry of Finance reported yesterday.

The country's surplus with the United States, however, narrowed to \$3.25 billion in June from \$3.62 billion in June 1989. The 10 per cent decline was good news in the wake of a recent agreement aimed at reducing trade frictions.

Japan's trade surplus with the European Economic Community in June expanded to \$1.59 billion from \$1.53 billion the previous year.

For the first six months of the year, Japan's overall merchandise trade surplus shrank 22.8 per cent to \$25.79 billion from \$33.39

billion in the year-earlier period, the ministry said.

Imports for the six months totalled \$108.15 billion, up 5.6 per cent from \$102.43 billion the year before. Exports slipped 1.4 per cent to \$138.94 billion from \$135.84 billion.

Foreign Ministry officials attributed the June reversal to a drop in import values resulting from a decrease in world commodity prices and slowed domestic demand. At the same time, the export values of many big-ticket items sold by Japan grew, they said.

Kazuko Mizuno, an economist at Baring Securities (Japan) Ltd, said export growth had accelerated since the yen began depreciating rapidly at the beginning of the year, and import growth slowed.

European consortium launches HDTV

STRASBOURG, France, July 13, (AP): A European consortium of High Definition Television companies was launched Wednesday in a bid to make its version of razor-sharp pictures, wrapped in digital sound, acceptable world-wide.

The consortium "Vision 1250" — so named as European HDTV screens feature 1,250 horizontal lines instead of 625 on conventional sets — is a multinational group that will make HDTV production facilities available to film and TV professionals.

Its launch "may turn out to be a milestone," said Antonio la Pergola, chairman of the European

Parliament's Energy, Research and Technology Committee.

Vision 1250 follows a 1989 decision by the 12 European Economic Community governments to formulate a strategy to launch HDTV in Europe.

La Pergola said Europe had "reduced significantly Japan's 10-year lead" in HDTV technology as the EEC's technology is compatible with existing TV standards.

Japan and the United States have proposed a worldwide HDTV standard based on 1,125 horizontal lines. Conventional TV sets in the United States and Japan feature 525 horizontal lines.

Bombay Stock Exchange

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)			
	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	673	60	46.25
Alcon Chem	—	—	—
Alv Nis	—	—	—
Ari Fab	—	—	—
Ashtek Ltd	82	82	83
Asia Paint	237.50	238.75	237.50
Corp	45	47	45
Auto Corp	70	69	70
Nat Index	467.95	—	476.47
Bajaj Auto	512.50	520	516.25
Bar Rayon	1082.5	1115	1122
Blow Plast	—	—	—
Bom Dye	257	260	258
BK Bond	115.50	119	115
Burr Wel	67.50	62.50	70
Cashmere	—	—	—
Cen Euka	3750	3800	3850
Cen Sps	3500	3570	3540
Colgate	—	252.50	252.25
Crompt Gr	—	1025	1075
DCM	32	30.50	31
Deep Fert	31.50	31.50	31
Dunlop	—	60	62.50
El Hotels	99	98	60
Escorts	100.50	101.50	103
BSE Index	909.30	136.25	924.25
Eskares	133.75	134.25	140
Esar Sps	40	42.50	40.75
Food Spl	120	121.25	125
Forbes	60	58	60
Gar Poly	37	37.50	37.50
Gillette	96.50	98	97.50
GNFC	41.75	43.50	41
Graham	146.50	150	146.50
GE Sps	—	45	45.50
CISFC	222.50	227.50	222.50
Guj Alki	90	89.50	90.50
Guj Heavy	16.50	15	16
Hero Honda	38	38	37
Hind Ciba	1540	1530	1550
Hind Lever	125.50	126	127
Hind Cocoa	160	160	166.25
Hind Motor	40.25	40.50	41.25
Hindalco	310	320	312.50
Hochsti	2140	2200	2300
Ingersoll	232.50	230	235
ITC	—	92	92
Ind Org	61.75	62	62.75
Ind Rayon	124	131	126

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

Tokyo shares

Nikkei stock average: 32644.37	
(+69.05)	
Volume: 500 mil shs	
Yen exchange rate: 147.42	
Name of stock	Cl
Advantest Corp	6170
Ajinomoto	2000
Alps Electric	2420
Amada	1810
Asahi Chem Ind	900
Asahi Glass	1850
C. Itoh Co.	828
Canon Inc.	1880
Casio Comp	1380
Dai Nippon Printing	1910
Daiichi Seiyaku	2630
Dainippon Ph	3070
Daiichi Koki	1920
Daiichi Koki Corp	1920
Epson	7600
Fanuc Ltd.	4720
Fuji Photo	1450
Fujitsu Ltd.	1660
Hitachi Credit	2370
Hitachi Koki	1480
Hitachi Ltd.	1570
Hitachi Metal	1750
Honda Motor	4130
Ito Yoko Co	1930
Kajima Corp	808
Kawasaki H I	1670
Kobe Cast Iron	5080
Kokusai Elec.	1290
Komatsu Ltd.	9160
Kyocera Corp	3250
Marui	3830
Matsushita Ind	2160
Mazda Motor	899
Mitsubishi Corp	1540
Mitsubishi Estate	1500
Mitsubishi H I	980
Mitsui RE	1830
Mizuho Corp	1880
Mochida Ph	3980
Mori Seiki Co.	4430
Nissan Corp	1980
Nippon Steel Corp	1730
Nippon Shant Co	1090
Nippon Steel Corp	535
Nippon Yusen	2380
Nipponkai Corp	1540
Nomura Sec	2230
Okuma Mach	1890
Onward K Co.	2280
Osaka Elec	4790
Pioneer Elec Co.	6380
Renown Look Inc	2590
Sanyo Elec Co.	860
Secom Co. Ltd.	7000
ShinEtsu Chem	1950
Shindengen Elec	1380
Sony Corp	9000
Sumitomo Elec Ind.	1670
Sumitomo Metal Ind.	550
Takeda Chemical	1700
TDK Corp	7500
Takio Marine & Fire	1380
Tokyo Elec Power	4170
Tokyo Electron Ltd	4750
Toshiba Corp	1760
Toshiba Ind Inc.	772
Toshiba Corp	1050
Toyoda Motor	2270
Yokawa Elec	1010

Provided by Nomura Investment Banking (Midwest), Bahrain

Poland passes bill to privatize state industry

WARSAW, July 13, (AP): Poland's Solidarity-led government took its radical economic reform plan another step today as Parliament passed a bill to quickly privatize the more than 90 per cent of industry owned by the state.

The long-delayed legislation sailed through the Sejm or lower house of Parliament on a 328-2 vote with 39 abstentions. A separate bill to create an agency to oversee the changes passed unanimously.

The legislation must be affirmed by the Senate on July 19, but with 99 of 100 Senators elected from Solidarity it was not expected to face opposition.

The bills allow for the sale of shares of state enterprises under the agency for ownership transformations, which will evaluate companies and put those in best shape up for sale first.

"The ownership changes must be completed more quickly than in any country that has attempted it before us," Finance Minister

Congratulations to Palestinian graduates



Senior school graduates.



Awni Battash



University graduates



Raeda Sami



Afial Saleh

THE Palestinian Students Union and Palestinian Women's Union Kuwait organised a festival in the honour of the outstanding students who obtained the Senior School Certificate this year and the graduates of Kuwait University at the Maseelah Beach Hotel last week.

The festival was held under the patronage of the PLO leader Yasser Arafat. It was attended by the Palestinian Ambassador Awni Battash, and a member of Fatah Central Committee Salem Al Zaanoun, who delivered a speech on the occasion.

A Palestinian folk band performed a number of songs and dances and Awni Battash and Salem Al Zaanoun then distributed prizes and appreciation certificates to the students and graduates.



Mewiya Tewfik



Samiya Sami



Sana' Hamad



Folklore singers.

KTV 1

- 9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Al Bad Al Khamasi: cartoons
9.40 Iftah Ya Simsim (Sesame Street)
10.10 Good Morning
10.30 Wad Al Nahar: Arabic serial: starring Azza Kamal, Mustafa Fahmi
11.15 Sahah Al Khair: (Good Morning)
12.00 Al Kanaz: Arabic serial. Starring: Hind Kamel, Nazar Al Samarat, May Jamal, Fawzi Mahdi
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.30 Al Sanafer: cartoon serial
2.00 Cartoons
2.30 Surkhay Nadm: Gulf serial, starring Ali Hassan, Maryam Saleh, Saad Bu Rashid, Basma Hamada
3.00 Min Hadei Al Quran: religious programme
3.30 Al Asdiqah: The Friends. Arabic serial. Part 2. Featuring Jalal Shargawi, Laila Hamada, Hala Sudqi, Farouk Najib.
5.30 Adventures: cartoon serial
6.00 Young Artists: children's serial
6.30 Noor Al Islam: religious programme prepared and presented by Ahmad Abdul Qadir
8.00 Nadwah Al Usbooh: weekly discussion
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Raqeeh La Yanam: "The Vigilantes." Arabic series. Starring: Ahmad Mazhar, Samiya Al Ali, Mahi Ismael
11.00 Saleek Lakin Shuara: Arabic serial
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: cartoon serial
6.30 Abracadabra: Time Tunnel
7.00 The Hogan Family: "Faulty Attraction." Sandy's former husband comes back into her life.
7.30 The Last Frontier: "Shark Reef." John Stone sails to the Caribbean Sea to study sharks in their natural habitat.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Murder, She Wrote:
9.30 Adventures in Space.
10.30 Saturday movie: Johnny Belinda. It's the story of a deaf-mute girl.
12.00 News in brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

SUNDAY

- July 15
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Macaroni I: cartoon serial
6.30 The Beachcombers: "The Long Way Home." Nick and John help old Duffy find his long-lost son. Starring: Brunn Gerussi, Robert Clothier.
7.00 Natural World: The Haida Qwai: Island of the People.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Made in Kuwait: Local series on products manufactured in factories around Kuwait. Also, a look at local industrial development.
9.30 E.N.G. "Forest of the Night." Jake's paranoic affects his work; and the team has to find an alternative to fill crucial spots on TV.
10.00 The Lenny Henry Show: Lenny's comic spectacular punctuated with songs.
10.30 Best Seller: "Kane and Abel." based on Jeffrey Archer's best-selling novel of the same name. Florentina, Abel's daughter, falls in love with Kane's son. Starring: Peter Strauss, Sam O'Neil.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY

- July 16
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Only One Earth: Examines water pollution and its impact on the quality of life.
7.00 Roving Report: KTV presents roundup of regional and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: Charles marries another woman; and the family try to reconcile differences between Charles and his former flame, Stephanie.
8.00 News in English

- 8.40 Face in Face: Interview with Mohammad Hamad Al Ronmi, director of the Computer Department at the Ministry of Interior.
9.10 Jake and the Fat Man: Jake gets some help from Alexis to investigate a series of crimes.
9.40 The People Next Door: "Town Without Pity." Walter's imagination goes haywire when he tries to caricature his new home town.
10.30 The Mission Impossible: "The Berlin Wall." Secret agents rescue a girl taken hostage by the East Germans.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TUESDAY

- July 17
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Chic and Dale's Rescue: cartoon serial
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: A variety show for young viewers.
7.00 International Overdoorman: "Alligators in the Wild." A look at alligators in the swamps of Louisiana.
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Better Never Than Late." Allie's mother-in-law pays a surprise visit and claims her grandson.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: A weekly programme on Kuwaiti laws; prepared by the Interior Ministry.
8.40 Border Town: A white boy adopted by an Indian chief is reclaimed by his relatives.
9.00 Horizon: The sharpest show of the Universe. A look at a giant telescope launched in space.
10.00 Perfect Strangers: Balki and Larry plan to join a karate club.
10.30 Best Seller: "The Fortunes of War" Guy

- brushes up his acting skills as the war continues.
12.30 News in Brief
12.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY

- July 18
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Karate Kid: cartoon serial
6.30 Alf: "Promises, Promises." Alf steps in to sort out a feud between father and daughter.
7.00 P.M. Magazine: A magazine featuring science news from around the world.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Chart Attack: Top twenty songs from Europe.
9.10 Paradise: Dead Run. Emilia is kidnapped and tortured; Ethan plans a rescue operation.
10.00 Witness to Survival: Real-life stories about courage and determination to survive.
10.30 Feature Film: "Bullshot." A scientist who has invented a substitute of oil is kidnapped; his daughter seeks help to rescue him.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY

- July 19
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 My Secret Identity: Andrew wants to help his girlfriend solve a problem.
7.00 Star Trek: "The Outrageous Okona." The Okona seeks sanctuary on the Enterprise; trouble breaks out after another spaceship claims Okona has stolen the captain's jewellery. What is the secret behind Okona?
8.00 News in English
8.40 Adventure: Jack sails towards an island where he hopes to find a hidden treasure.
9.30 Paul Daniel Magic show

- 10.00 Bill Cosby Show: "Mister Sandman." Cliff volunteers to take his daughter to dance lessons. Starring: Bill Cosby, Phylcia Rashad.
10.30 Thursday Night Movie: "Sweet Revenge."
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY

- July 20
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Cartoons
6.30 Family Feature Film: "The Wonderful World of Disney." The story of Hamad, who is kidnapped from Bahrain and taken to an island.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Breaking Away: A look at what's on in Kuwait.
8.50 T & T: "Hard Way Home." Kidnap and ransom demands form the theme of this episode. Starring: Mr. T.
9.15 Globe TV: A Ticket in the world.
10.00 Doctor Doctor: Dr Michael disagrees with the way in which their clinic is run; and the doctors almost break up. Comedy.
10.30 The Men: "Thumas." Paul wants to write an expose on police corruption.
11.30 News in Brief
11.35 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

CINEMA

- Al Andalus
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Samiya
Taht Al Sifr (Arabic)
Starring: Salah Saadani, Najla Fathi
Al Hama
Al Falaheen Ahham (Arabic)
Starring: Saeed Saleh, Hayatem
Drive-In
Jazira Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Yusra Al Firdous
Eshwar (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Vijay Shanti
Fahabehel Open-Air
Bhrashtachar (Hindi)
Starring: Rekha, Rishi Kapoor
Al Fahabehel
Oru Vadakkan Veeragadha (Malayalam)
Al Jahra
Tenzan: The Ultimate Mission
Gramada
Closed
Sulaimikhat
Hanafi Al Ahhahu (Arabic)
Al Jleeh
Ramji Rao Speaking (Malayalam)
Ahmadi Drive-in
Soldiers Terminators

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.24 am
Zuhr	11.54
Asr	3.28 pm
Maghreb	6.50
Isha	8.20

WHAT'S ON

Social

Approb 'Who's Who' directory
THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is planning to publish a "Who's Who" directory of prominent Pakistani professionals and businessmen resident in Kuwait by January 1991. The directory aims at providing information about all Pakistanis proficient and distinguished in their professions and businesses.

Data firms are available free of cost from Approb executive board members and other locations. For further details contact Approb on Tel. No. 2425315, Fax 5323751, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024 Salmiya, Kuwait.

A copy of the directory will be given free of charge to all individuals whose names will appear in the directory.

Kapilku

July 19: Kapilku awards certificates of attendance to those who attended tailoring, bookkeeping, basic accounts and basic computer courses. The ceremony will be held at Al Araliya Restaurant, 8 pm. Philippine Ambassador Maung Mohammad Tamano will be the chief guest. Buffet dinner, KD 3 per person. Proceeds will go towards the school fund.

Those who attended self-improvement classes are asked to contact Sarah Macarimbang. Tel: 4839009, 4839889, 4843447.

July 14: The Ambassador also invites the French community to a reception, from 7 to 9 pm, at the Meridian Hotel, Jabra Ballroom.

Summerbelle '90

Aug 2: United Goans Centre will hold Summerbelle '90 at the SAS Hotel's The Tent. Top Ranks and Hurricane Alley in attendance. For reservations call Tony 2612024, Cyril 253930; Joe 5655140.

Theatre

Natya Bherati
Natya Bharati calls amateur dramatists to audition for their fourth Hindi production entitled "Badi Buaji" (The Big Aunt), a full-length comedy which will be performed in mid-October. Required a female lead, young smart lady, past stage experience would be an asset, two supporting actresses, character actors, a middle-aged man with a good personality and two young men in their early 30s. Genuinely interested people who plan to stay in Kuwait during summer holidays can contact 4880965 or 5623810 after 1.30 pm or 3721545 after 8.30 am for further details.

Goan drama

Sept 21: Goan comedy king Bah Prince Jacob will present the comedy "Pergaum" (announcement) at Indian Arts Circle. The programme will be organised by Menino de Sanvordem. For details call Fernandes: 2435685; 2435688.

Music

Sur Sangeet
July 19: A musical evening will be presented by Sur Sangeet group to say farewell to outgoing Indian Second Secretary S.M. Mathur. Singers participating in the show include Valencia, Rosebud, Laxmi, Charlie, Shah Nawaz Karim.

Rock and Reggae
July 22: "Let's Rock and Reggae", a concert with Steve Michael and the Afro Beat, will be held from 9pm at the Holiday Inn Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Vocalist Sheryl Pereira will make a special appearance as a soloist and also join Steve in some duets. Tina Mathews will perform a Reggae dance routine. Reservations open. Tel: 2405648; 2476660; 5714340; 5721030. Tickets also available from special desk in Holiday Inn lobby. The concert is being organised and presented by Phil Danielle. Early bookings are advised due to limited seating.

At the International Falaka
Falaka, situated on the 19th floor, overlooking the coastline, it offers international cuisine; live entertainment in the evenings. Closed on Fridays.
La Palma, offers buffet as well as a la carte. Family style brunch on Fridays.
Ket, offers Japanese dining in an oriental atmosphere.
La Pausserie: selection of snacks; pianist in the evenings.
Al Wah: ice cream promotion featuring different flavours, until August 1990.

At the SAS
Bisiretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.
Al Boom: Kuwait experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.
Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At Al Salam
July 12-19: Seafood festival at El Bender Coffee Shop; 7 pm to midnight. Flot Al Salam features jumbo shrimps and lobsters and other seafood specialities.

At the Messleeh Beach
Al Mubarakian: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.
Al Jawhar: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.
Al Berdownen: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

At Al Salem
July 12 — 19
Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.
Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.
Al Gendoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food.
Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Meridian
La Brasserie
Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music.
Chinese Corner: Monday night feature.
Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music.
Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays; food prepared in front of you.
Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night.
Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day.
Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the Plaza:
Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.
Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.
Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

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At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner. Buffets featuring Continental and Oriental cuisine; emphasis on seafood.
Al Andalus Supper Club. Arabic style dining on Thursday nights; music by resident Arab band.
Friday Family Lunch: Disney Fantasy; children half price.

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Sport

All-Filipino Scrabble Tournament

July 20: Filecheck have announced the all-female scrabble tournament, scheduled to start on Friday, July 20, will now be open to all Filipinos, male and female. Deadline for entries is July 19.

A total of 15 minutes is allocated for each player to finish the game; a player who exceeds the time limit will cease to play and his/her last score will be considered as the last score. Each player is required to use a chess clock to monitor time. The winner or the player with the highest score will earn 3 points; second will be 2 points; third one point and the last zero point. In case of a tie, the player with the highest score wins.

The champion and the two runners-up will each receive a trophy and valuable gift items. Registration forms are available at the Kabayan Restaurant. For details contact Edward/Liza — 2402045



KTV 2, Friday, 10:00 pm — Doctor Doctor

BLONDIE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

By Dik Browne



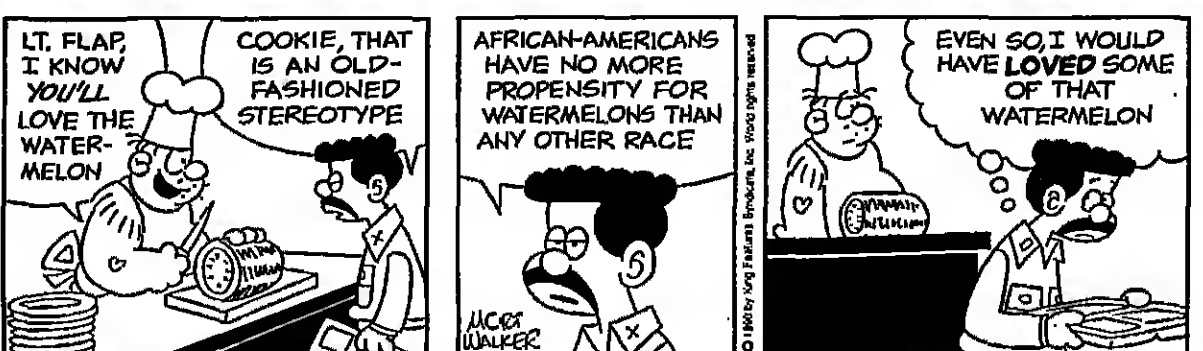
AGATHA CRUMM

By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY

By Lynn Walker

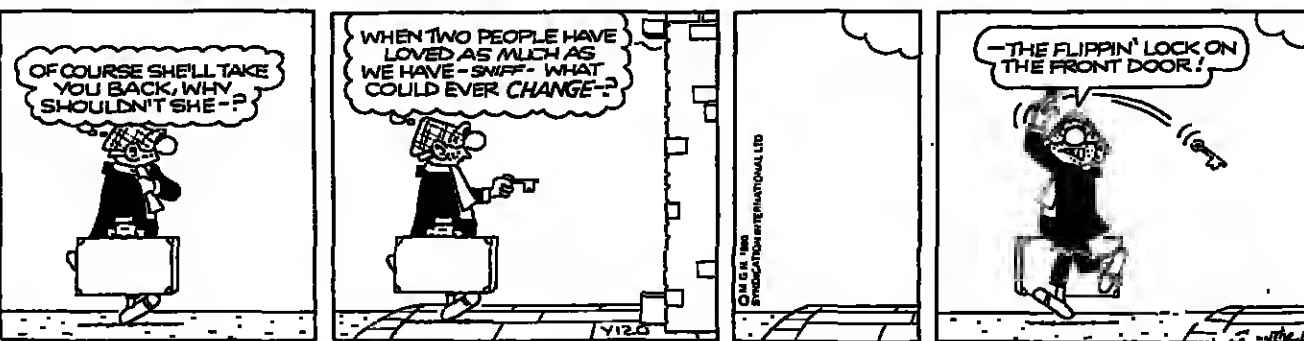


THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brad Parker & Johnny Hart

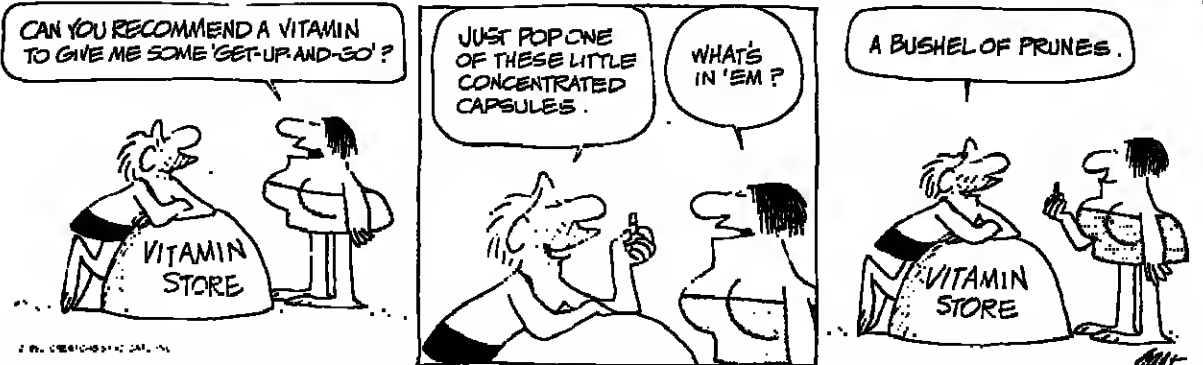


ANDY CAPP



B.C.

By Johnny Hart

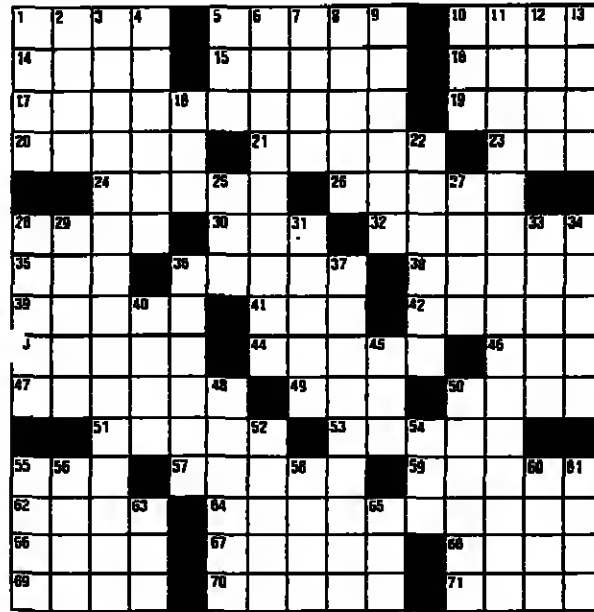


HE-MAN

By G. Fortin & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 Substance
 - 5 Healing signs
 - 10 Ripens
 - 14 Melville novel
 - 15 Trumpet's cousin
 - 18 Persie, today
 - 17 Loss of rank
 - 19 "I — man who wasn't there"
 - 20 Tard the furnace
 - 21 Stogges
 - 23 Sixth sense, for short
 - 24 Barbara's predecessor
 - 26 Naval historian: 1840-1914
 - 28 School subj.
 - 30 CIA forerunner
 - 32 Arena action
 - 35 — Jima
 - 36 Hits like "The Babe"
 - 38 Triple Crown winner: 1935
 - 39 Legend
 - 41 Collector's car
 - 42 One who trifles
 - 43 Threelike
 - 44 Book of —
 - 45 Irish treasure
 - 46 Food for babies
 - 47 Atelior
 - 49 The Ebro, for example
 - 50 June honorees
 - 51 Observers
 - 53 Energizer
 - 55 Sovereignty, in India
 - 57 Hot stuff, at the cantina
 - 59 Glacial ridge
 - 62 Popular name in Oslo
 - 64 Strauss's "Die Flademaus," for one
- DOWN**
- 66 Bellerine
 - 67 Gene Tierney role
 - 68 Emerald Isle
 - 69 Aide: Abbr.
 - 70 Stage direction
 - 71 Prospective atty's exam
 - 1 Clusters of seals
 - 2 " — a man who..."
 - 3 Ontario nine
 - 4 Water pipe
 - 5 Govt. agcy. for entrepreneurs
 - 6 Witch in Burn's "Tam o' Shanter"
 - 7 Exchange premium
 - 8 Flower
 - 9 Battle of Hastings site: 1066
 - 10 Goal
 - 11 Wisconsin eleven
 - 12 Cuisine, diner style
 - 13 Break
 - 22 Fires
 - 25 Bovine
 - 27 Shot n' shell
 - 28 Offends
 - 29 Expect
 - 31 Take the helm
 - 33 in front
 - 34 Diamond covers, for short
 - 36 Some are mini
 - 37 Card game for a loner
 - 40 Luck or love
 - 45 Card game of old
 - 48 Prophet
 - 50 Scatter
 - 52 "McSorley's Bar" painter
 - 54 Recent
 - 55 Comb. form
 - 56 Capit of Italia
 - 58 Filth
 - 60 Diva's song
 - 61 Declaim
 - 63 Kind of cat
 - 65 Jelopy

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

SHAFT SERP TSAR
PUTON AYER ALAE
ALERT URGE BARA
DANK ATTE SALVER
LIVE OHME
BODICE CUPIDITY
UNIFY SETIN DEP
STET SHIRE PEAR
TAG ATALE BLASES
SPOONERS BIASES
ATIP BLOC
NAPKIN TAY EAST
IGLU WURU SMITE
GRAM ATOM RANEE
EATS YARE STUNS

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

PLAY THE ODDS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH

K J 10 7 2

6 3

A Q 5

A 9 4

WEST

Q 8 6 5

Q 8 4

8 7 3 2

Q 3

EAST

9 3

10 9

K J 9 4

K J 10 8 6

SOUTH

A 4

A K J 7 5 2

10 6

7 5 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Eight of

Ever feel that you are a bridge

star just waiting to be discovered?

Cover the East-West hands with

your thumbs and see how you fare

on this play problem.

North's raise to four hearts is not

a misprint. South's two-heart rebid

in this sequence guarantees a six-

card suit, and when your side has an

eight-card major-suit fit, it is usual-

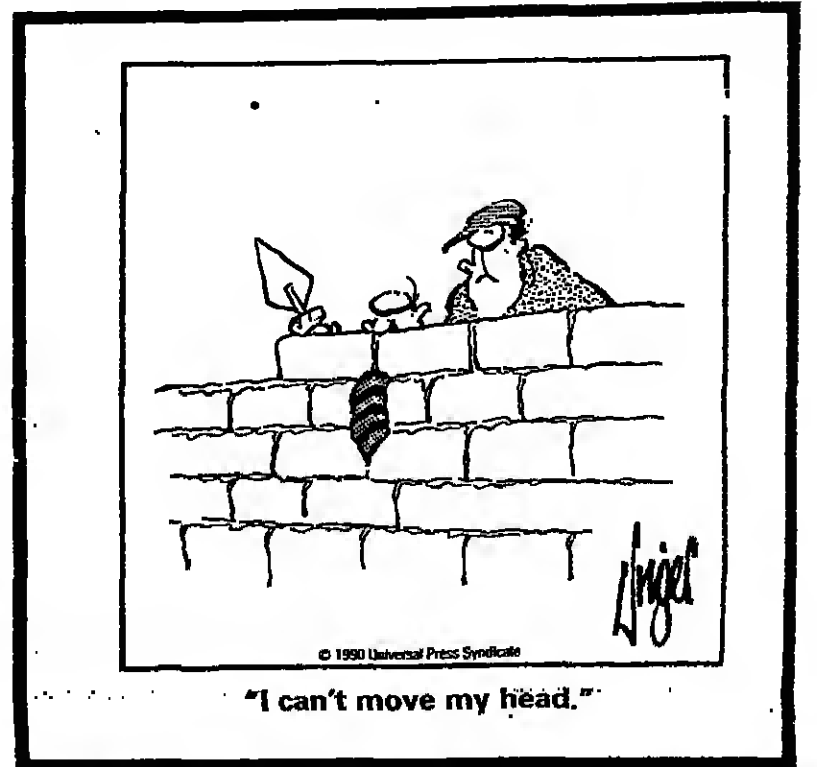
ly wiser to play in a suit than in no

trump when your values consist largely of prime cards—aces and kings.

Did you take the diamond finesse at the first trick? If so, read no further—you have already flunked this test. Should the diamond finesse lose, you have given East the opportunity to shift to a club, which could place your contract in serious trouble.

You have surmounted the first hurdle if you rose with the ace of diamonds and led a trump from dummy. Did you finesse? If so, join the diamond finessers on the sidelines, for the same reasons they're warming the bench.

Correct is to rise with the king of trumps and cash the ace. Both defenders follow, and you can now virtually claim your contract. (You would still have chances if trumps were 4-1.) Cash the two high spades and lead the jack, discarding a diamond no matter what East does. All that remains is to take the ace of clubs at the first opportunity and discard a club on the ten of spades. By refusing three finesses, you've held your losers to one trump, one spade and one club.

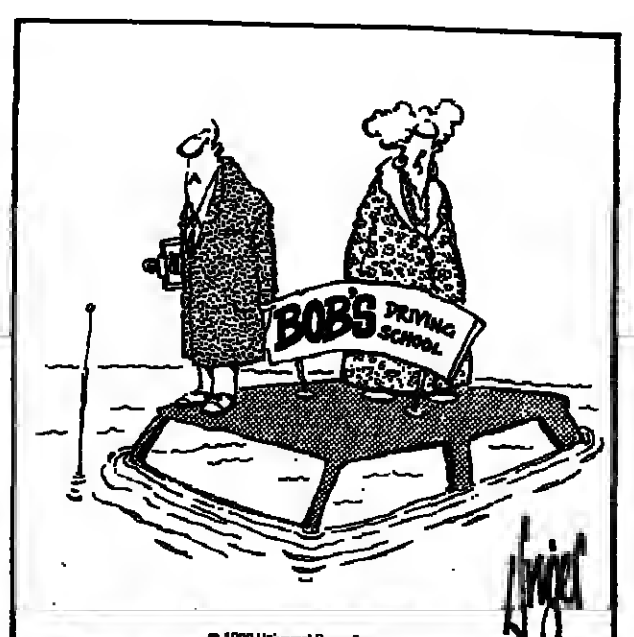


YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>You will not feel like doing very much but you should try to pull yourself together. Not everything is going your way, but do not despair, there are compensations. And do not think others do not have problems. Be astemious.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>Make sure you are not late for an appointment. Your lucky numbers are 16 and 34. Have a little more confidence in yourself and faith in those close to you. Try to overcome a certain reluctance to get down to things. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Libra Sept. 23 - Oct. 22</p> <p>You should try to do more to maintain your interest in what really interests your partner. Do not allow your enjoyment to be clouded by the fact that others can afford more than you. Avoid anything that would get you into serious debt. Be consistent.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec. 21 - Jan. 19</p> <p>Before purchasing a labour-saving device do ask yourself how much time you spent earning its cost. Do not dwell on the past except in order to avoid repeating mistakes. Pursue a hobby, but not to the extent where it becomes an obsession. Be reasonable.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>You will have to make an important decision. Make sure you do so after calm reflection, not on the spur of the moment. Avoid spending more than you can readily afford. Be pertinent.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug. 21</p> <p>You will have to beware of creating complications where a personal matter is concerned. Do not try to do what requires new methods by means of outworn ones. Do not stake more than you can readily afford to lose on a gamble. Be resilient.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 22</p> <p>Do not allow yourself to be daunted by certain difficulties, they will be easier to deal with than you thought. Try to take your mind away from gloomy thoughts about things that might have been. Do look forward to what is still to come. Be frugal.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan. 20 - Feb. 18</p> <p>What you had not realised before will now become clear and you will reap the benefit. Avoid spending more time than you need in the company of those you do not much care for. Do not take all things so seriously. Be consistent.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>If you wait too long it could well be too late, but you should make sure you do not act in too great a hurry either. You are far too liable to put your eggs all in one basket—don't. Avoid trying to live on the same terms as someone a lot better off than you. Be more patient.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug. 23 - Sept. 22</p> <p>Try to avoid getting into a prolonged argument. And keep your temper even when dealing with an irascible person. Take regular exercise but not to the point where you exhaust yourself or strain your heart. Be generous.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21</p> <p>Do not think that everything is against you, you are far less unlucky than some others. Avoid anything that would upset the harmony with your partner and children. If invited do not stay longer than welcome. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20</p> <p>Do your best to make your partner feel happy. You are likely to start on the wrong course but there is still time to change direction. An offer or proposal has hidden snags so consider it carefully. Be considerate.</p>



"Maybe it was ivory poachers."



"Well, at least the trip's over."



A slain policeman lives again as the dauntless Robocop (Peter Weller).

Baddies megamonster fights back

Tough Robocop goes to pieces

THE trouble with being a robot cop is that, faced with a crisis, you could really go to pieces! And that is just what happens in the satire movie *Robocop 2*... a sequel to the 1987 blockbuster.

In fact, the baddies make a thorough job of poor Robo. He is mangled by magnets and returned to the police in bits and pieces.

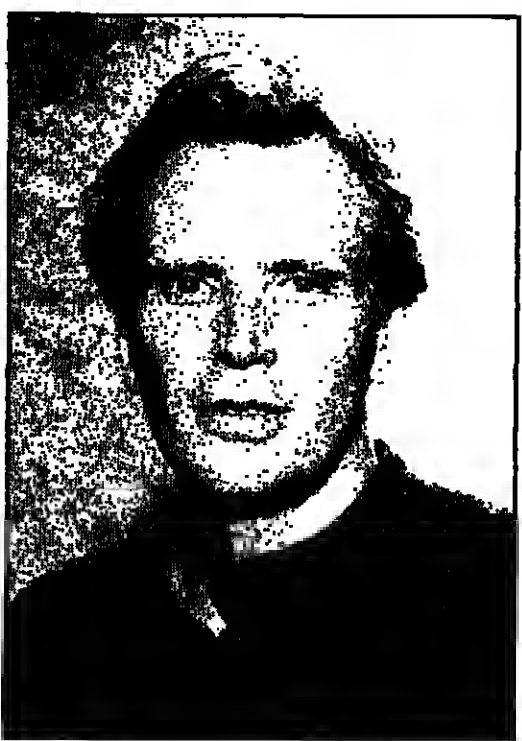
But Robocop rises again to race, clanking, into action against the Forces of Evil in a crime-ridden and futuristic Detroit. Just as slain cop Alex J. Murphy (Peter Weller) was resurrected as the robot law enforcer with horrendous firepower.

The original Robocop movie stormed its way into more than \$50 million at the box office in America alone. Which is reason enough to give the 'mind over metal' policeman a polish up and new lease of life.

This time Robocop has a tough time as he plods his beat. As cars burtle lethally at him, a beautiful psychiatrist tinkers with his head and the villains are bent on dismemberment, the shiny bright robot still remembers his official "prime directives."

These range from "uphold the law" and don't rush traffic lights to "if somebody shoots at you find out why and explain to them that their attitude is unproductive."

And Robocop has to deal with a Detroit that has turned into another fine mess. The human-type cops



Peter Weller, the face behind Robocop's mask.

are on strike, the city's going bankrupt and a deadly new designer drug called Nuke is raking huge profits for the baddies.

Worse, Robocops bosses have already marked him down for the scrapyard. So he has a megamonster programmed for evil. Robocop's rival is described as having 'a chromium cranium within which is a mind as cunning and corrupt as that of any psychopath. Maybe more so.'

Robocop's world is peopled with weird and wonderful characters. There is his friendly cop partner officer Ann Lewis (Nancy Allen) who seems to have a soft spot for the robot's unyielding exterior.

And among the villains is cult-leader Cain, played by Ian Noonan, whose hitman Hot is a savage, sadistic killer. Quite a qualification for a 12-year-old boy (Gahriel Damon).

By the way, when the film begins, a nuclear accident has contaminated the Amazon rain forest and America's surgeon-general has been shot dead while filing a TV health commercial. That is just for openers.

Only Robocop has the mettle to go boldly where no other cop dares to go, as drug addicts roam the streets and the baddies work their evil ways.

It's amazing but audiences are already finding the metal hero's plight a laughing matter...



Robocop with his friend Officer Ann Lewis (Nancy Allen), who finds him only half the robot he used to be.



Metal meets metal as baddies mow down the cop with the heart of steel

Bull-fighting

Billion dollar stake behind fiestas

Bloody spectacle

MADRID. (Reuter). When a matador faces half a tonne of lethal horned beef in the bullring more than his life is at stake, for Spain's 'fiesta nacional' (national festival) is a billion-dollar business.

The protests of animal-lovers have done little to abate Spaniards' enthusiasm for the bloody spectacle.

Last year 51 million people — including King Juan Carlos, cabinet ministers and stars of the booming Spanish business world — saw 29,000 proud "toros bravos" (wild bulls) killed in the ring or charge through the streets in Pamplona-style fiesta.

The paid 78 billion pesetas (\$760 million) for the privilege and Juan Manuel Moreno, president of the National Union of Bullfight Businessmen, said those figures should rise between six and eight per cent this year.

This is good news for the 170,000 people whose livelihood depends on the "corrida" (bullfight) — the farmworkers and breeders who lovingly rear the bulls, the matadors who kill them and their teams of assistants and agents and the businessmen who run the bullrings and other spin-off industries.

A top matador can charge around two to four million pesetas (\$19,600 to 39,200) per corrida while star Juan Antonio Ruiz, known as Espartaco, can demand up to eight million pesetas (\$78,400) a fight.

Espartaco's earnings last year were calculated to be 400 million

pesetas (\$3.9 million).

"You don't earn a lot, considering what you are risking," said Espartaco, 27, who since he was carried out of Seville's la Maestranza bullring on the crowd's shoulders in 1985 has been the king of Spanish matadors.

Espartaco says that each time he faces a bull he fears for his life, but he does not take the same risks with his earnings which are invested safely in real estate at home in Andalusia.

"It has cost me a lot to earn that money, lots of blood and sweat, so I am not going to play around with it," he said.

Out of his earnings the matador must pay his team of two mounted "picadores" and three "banderilleros" who help him in the ring and spectacularly run up to the bull's horns and stick flagged spears in its back to prepare it for the kill.

Only a handful of Spain's 200-odd matadors command such star rates. Many others, and the 500 "novilleros" (novices who fight younger bulls) and 800 matador's assistants must find other work outside the March to October season.

Moreno said many of the businessmen who contract matadors to appear at their rings, which in most cases are leased from the town or city authorities, are themselves failed or frustrated bullfighters.

Moreno swirled the red cape briefly in his youth before swapping the spangled, tight-fitting

"suit of lights" — 195,000 pesetas (\$1,900) for a good one from the specialist tailors — for a business suit.

"I wanted to be a bullfighter like all Spaniards do," he said. "Normally the businessmen in this game are frustrated bullfighters. It is more romanticism than business."

At the Union of Fighting Bull Breeders, Jaime Sebastian de Erice said most of the 240 professional breeders were also driven by love of the fiesta rather than love of money.

"In the great majority of cases there are no profits," he said. "Most of the bullbreeders are aficionados and the greatest benefit they get out of it is their enjoyment of the fiesta."

A first-class four-year-old bull, of which six are usually killed per corrida, costs the bullring some 700,000 pesetas (\$6,862) while the three-year-olds for the novilleros are cheaper at 400,000 pesetas (\$3,900) apiece. Erice said it can cost more than that to rear each bull.

Only a handful of businessmen dominate the bull world, acting as agents for the best fighters and running the rings. The biggest in the arena is Manolo Chopera who runs 15 rings in Spain, France and Latin America.

The world's top venue is Madrid's Las Ventas, a 1920s red-brick ring in Moorish style which seats 32,000 people. To bullfighters and their devotees it

is known as "The Cathedral."

The lease until 1993 is held by Torosma Sa, a company controlled by the Lozano Brothers.

Eduardo, Jose Luis and the former matador Pablo, which shares the profits with Madrid local authorities.



A bull-fighter is gored during a fight in Pamplona

America's ethnic fabric may change

1990 census expected to show varied results

WASHINGTON. (UPI). With the Census Bureau reporting that it has surveyed all but one per cent of the estimated 106 million households in the United States, analysts are already beginning to wonder what the numbers will show.

Official figures on the once-a-decade national head count will not be available until the end of the year, when they are formally presented — as required by the Constitution — to the President for purposes of redistricting the House of Representatives.

But even before they began counting on April 1, Census Day, demographers at the Census Bureau had some idea of what to expect.

They expect, for example, that the national population will come in right around 250 million people, up from 226,545,805 people in 1980, and growing about one per cent a year.

The census is also expected to show that the population is getting older, that the average household and family sizes are continuing to decline, that the nation's racial and ethnic mix is changing, and that the movement from the frostbelt to

the sunbelt is continuing but at a slower rate.

"But what is not known," according to census officials, "is whether particular regions, states, metropolitan areas, cities, counties and even neighbourhoods are changing in the same way as national trends."

What the national trends — as

the nation's health care system, among other issues.

Census demographers also expect the size of the average family to continue to decline, from 3.29 persons in 1980 to 3.15 persons in 1990. That figure reflects the lower birth rate in the past two decades compared with the 1950s and 1960s, delayed

American demographers expect the census results, expected at year end, to show the population getting older, declining average family sizes and a rise in the percentage of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

well as the specific regional to neighbourhood findings — show have implications for political policy makers and business leaders as they contemplate the future.

For example, the 1990 census is expected to show an increase of about 23 per cent in the number of people 65 year old and older, bringing the size of that group to 31.4 million people compared with 25.5 million in the 1980 count. That growth has policy and economic implications for

marriage and an increased proportion of people living alone in most adult age groups.

The United States, always a land of immigrants, continues to be so, but the new census figures will demonstrate how the mix is changing, especially reflecting an increase in the numbers of immigrants from Latin American and Asia.

Bureau staffers, for example, believe the new census will show the Hispanic population making up about 8.2 per cent of the expected 250 million people.

compared with 6.5 per cent in 1980. Since 1980, the Hispanic population has increased by 39 per cent, or about 5.6 million people and in 1989, census officials estimated its size at 20.1 million people.

The 1990 census is also expected to confirm that the Asian and Pacific Islander population is the

fastest growing racial group from a percentage view, totalling less than 2 per cent of the population in 1980 but now expected to be nearly 3 per cent.

Blacks, who made up 11.8 per cent of the population in 1980, are expected to represent about 12.4 per cent of the total in 1990, with slightly more than 30 people.

Marketers and business planners will also look carefully at how the regional distribution of the population has changed.

while the overall population will show about a 10 per cent increase, the growth by regions will be uneven, with the West and South continuing to grow faster than the Northeast and Midwest although at a slower rate.

For example, census demographers are predicting the 1990 figures will show that the popula-

tion in the South has grown about 15 per cent since 1980, compared with a 20 per cent growth between 1970 and 1980. The West's growth rate is projected to be about 20 per cent in the 1980s, compared with 24 per cent in the 1970s.

Meanwhile, the population growth of the Northeast during the 1980s is expected to show close to a 4 per cent increase, compared with only a 0.2 per cent rise from 1970 to 1980.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

NOSE SPRAY OFFERS RELIEF FROM BED-WETTING

QUESTION: I'm writing concerning an article I read a month ago about news of a new treatment for bed-wetting. My daughter is 7 years old and the problem is very embarrassing. We have tried drops for allergies, which helped some, but the problem is still there. I can't find any information on the new treatment. Can you help me? Thank you.

ANSWERS: The medication, which was just recently approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), is desmopressin acetate (DDAVP nasal spray marketed by Rorer) and may be used in both adults and children. Normally the levels of a hormone that prevents the kidneys from producing urine (called vasopressin) increases at night, so little urine is formed or stored in the bladder. However, in some individuals the quantity of this antidiuretic hormone stays low during the overnight hours, and the amount of urine produced is much higher. In youngsters who don't have fully developed control of muscles that keep the bladder closed, the low hormone level results in bed-wetting at night.

DDAVP is a synthetic chemical resembling the hormone that fools the body into thinking that there is sufficient hormone present, so urine production is lowered. Although most children can urinate on command by age 4, it isn't until they have passed age 5 or 6 that they can hold their urine in when there is a bit of pressure in the bladder. Girls are better at this than boys, and control urination at an earlier age.

When bed-wetting continues past age 5 in girls or age 6 in boys, the new medication, which is expensive, can be considered for use by your physician (it is available by prescription only). One or two puffs from the nasal spray pump usually is sufficient to control the problem. Once wetting is under control, the medication may be used every other night. It

takes about three months of regular use to achieve regular dryness, and when the medication schedule is interrupted before that, bed-wetting may recur immediately.

A complete study is necessary to be sure that the problem is only night bed-wetting (or nocturnal enuresis, if you wish the medical terminology) and not the result of another medical condition, such as diabetes or urinary tract obstruction.

Question: When my husband's hand started to shake, we thought it was a sign of Parkinson's disease. However, we are now told that it is something called "essential tremor." It has gradually become worse and it now affects his voice. Does this mean he will someday develop a full-blown Parkinson's? Do you know of any treatments that might help? Thank you.

Answer: Some estimates place the number of people with essential tremor to be in the millions, and certainly it is the most common tremor disorder seen in the United States. It may start at any age, but usually begins during mid-life. There is a positive family history in about 50 per cent of the cases, which helps to differentiate it from Parkinson's where the family history is most often negative.

While it often only affects one side of the body, it can touch the hands, legs, head and trunk and the severity varies greatly from person to person. There is no link between essential tremor and Parkinson's disease. A peculiar aspect of essential tremor is that drinking alcohol can dramatically reduce the shaking, a situation that does not occur with Parkinson's. Both propranolol (80 to 320 milligrammes a day) and primidone (50 to 250 milligrammes a day), alone or together, offer real hope for improvement.

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1992 America's Cup will attract foreign spies: US Navy

LOS ANGELES, July 13, (UPI): Military officials fear the 1992 America's Cup yacht race off the San Diego coast will attract foreign spies who will use the event as a cover to gather information about highly sensitive projects, including the Navy's controversial dolphin and sea lion programme, it was reported yesterday.

The programme trains and uses marine

mammals for underwater surveillance and to detect, mark and recover objects, said Tom Lapuzza, a spokesman for the Naval Ocean Systems Centre in San Diego, who declined to elaborate because the project remains classified.

The programme uses 141 mammals at four different bases, with about half in a training programme near San Diego.

Among the mammals are 100 Atlantic bottlenose dolphins, seven Pacific bottlenose dolphins, two mixed-breed dolphins, 26 California sea lions, three Beluga whales, two Risso's dolphins and one false killer whale.

A July 6 internal navy memo obtained by the Los Angeles Times said the "marine mammal system will be subject to constant

observation by foreign operatives and international participants affiliated with these (racing) syndicates. Of greater concern is the inevitable national and international press interest."

The memo said navy officials "anticipate only negative press coverage of the Marine Mammal System Programmes. Presence of national/international press corps provides

excellent opportunity for animal rights/peace activists to gain maximum media exposure."

Twenty-four racing syndicates from 15 countries, including two from the Soviet Union and one from Yugoslavia, will train and compete in San Diego waters from January 1991 to June 1992 for the 28th America's Cup.

Whites and non-whites play under protection

WELKOM, South Africa, July 13, (Reuters): A South African riot policeman leaned casually on his automatic rifle as he watched a 12-year-old rugby player make a powerful run, to the cheers of the boy's classmates and doting parents.

Nearby, fellow members of a crack riot control unit laid aside their weapons to toss a rugby ball lazily back and forth.

All was quiet at North-West Stadium in the Orange Free State province, mining town of Welkom, venue of a national under-13 rugby tournament which is the annual highlight of the South African primary schools' sporting calendar.

But, the security forces were taking no chances. A police helicopter hovered overhead, protecting the diminutive players.

The event, which continued until today, is multi-racial, a sensitive issue in most parts of a country torn by apartheid but considered a major security risk in Welkom, which seethes with racial intolerance.

Even pre-teenagers, playing barefoot on Welkom's trim rugby pitches, cannot escape the wrath of extreme right-wingers who have sworn to fight reformist President F.W. de Klerk's attempts to end apartheid.

"Look, out on the pitch we have no problems, the kids don't care about their opponents' colour. Any trouble would come from the outside," said Tobie van Rooyen, tournament organiser and chairman of the South African Primary Schools' committee.

"Schoolboys have nothing to do with politics. Security forces are here just to make sure," he said.

Of the 30 teams taking part in the week-long competition, most are made up of white children, four are coloured (mixed-race) and one, representing the South African Schools' Sports Council, is racially integrated.

Weeks before the start of the tournament, white vigilante groups who are accused of serious attacks on blacks in Welkom vowed to do whatever it took to disrupt the event if non-white teams took part.

The white supremacists, perhaps aware of the bad publicity they would gain by using 12-year-olds as political targets, later backed off from their hard-line position.

But police have taken the earlier threats seriously, mainly because of the strong support in the town for heavily-armed right-wing vigilante groups who patrol the streets after dark, ostensibly to keep the lid on spiralling black crime.

Anti-apartheid community groups say the vigilantes are just hoodlums using the patrols as a semi-legal excuse to beat up innocent blacks.

Welkom's siege mentality erupted into violence when two blacks were shot dead, and then a white mining official and a passer-by were hacked to death in May by a crowd of black miners.

Lewis, Burrell win 100m races

Dees outruns Jackson in 110 m hurdles

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, July 13, (UPI): Two of the world's outstanding sprinters, Carl Lewis and Leroy Burrell, both of the United States, went separate ways at the Grand Prix track meet here yesterday as each won a 100-metre race.

Burrell, slightly aided by wind, clocked a winning time of 10.05

seconds while Lewis, with a light breeze blowing in his face, registered .04 seconds more.

Both were slow coming off the starting blocks but overpowered their competitors in the final stretch.

"I'm quite satisfied with my performance," Lewis said. "I'm in good shape, and together with Leroy, I have the best coach."

Leroy has more strength, but I am taller, so that evens out."

Lewis dispelled rumours of existing problems between the two. "We help each other a lot,"

he insisted, adding that he is planning to run the 100 metres again in Oslo and compete in the long jump at the Barcelona meet.

In a photo finish, US hurdler Tony Dees won his first major race with an edge of only .01

seconds over Britain's Colin Jackson, European record holder. Dees was timed in 13.91

seconds in the 110 metres hurdles event.

East Germany's 26-year-old world champion Heike Drechsler proved she had not lost her abilities during a one-year layoff due to a pregnancy as she won the broad jump in 7.19 metres, this season's second-best performance.

Other highlights included world seasonal bests by American Sandra Farmer Patrick with 54.46 in the women's 400 metres hurdles, by her countryman Danny Harris with 47.51 in the men's 400 metres hurdles and by Soviet hammer thrower Igor Nikulin with 84.48 metres.

Although South Africa's Myrle Bothma had been even faster than Farmer Patrick this season, her reported time of 53.65 seconds was never recognised by the IAAF due to a boycott of South African athletes.

In the 3,000 metres steeple race, Olympic champion Julius Kariuki of Kenya, who had set the year's fastest mark just two days earlier in Nizza, held off a strong challenge by runner-up Graeme Fell of Canada while Kenyan world record holder

Peter Koech finished further down in the field.

Harris, a long-time rival of Edwin Moses, stayed under the 48 second mark for the fourth time this season as he bettered his own seasonal best time by .13 seconds. No other hurdler had broken the 48 second barrier so far in 1990.

"It felt great, with 15,000 spectators cheering me on, I couldn't let them down," said Harris, adding, "I feel I have it in me to run even faster. I expect to better my time at my next try in Barcelona."

Putting the US Olympic Committee in charge of drug testing for all US sports will produce a more efficient and cost-effective system, Olympic gold medalist Edwin Moses said yesterday.

The governing bodies of each sport are now responsible for testing their own athletes, resulting in widely disparate programmes.

Moses, a two-time Olympic gold medalist in hurdles who heads the USOC's drug control committee, said many national governing boards don't have the staff or money to run drug testing programmes.

Others, such as the Athletics Congress (TAC) which governs track and field, have long-established programmes with large budgets.

"A lot of sports can't even afford to think about a drug programme," he said. "Track and field spends more on drug testing than some NGBs (national governing boards)

have as their gross national product."

Despite those expenditures, the TAC has been criticized recently for running sloppy and selective drug-testing procedures. To head off that criticism, executive director Olan Cassell has asked the USOC to assure TAC's drug testing responsibilities.

USOC president Robert Helms said earlier this week that his organisation would take over those chores and sponsor year-round drug testing programmes for any sport which requests it.

"It'll work," Helms said at the sports festival. "There's no need for track and field or any other sport to have to do this when it can be done by one group."

Phil Henson, in charge of the track competition at the Olympic festival, said turning the TAC's drug testing over to the USOC should help restore public confidence in those tests.

Henson also said all athletes are likely to be subjected to testing under a USOC-run programme. To reduce the expenses, the TAC generally had exempted athletes who live more than 75 miles from a testing site.

"There was some speculation that some athletes might choose to live a certain place because of the location," Henson said.

Moses said he doesn't anticipate resistance to a USOC-run drug programme, although he's not sure when it will begin.



Lewis after winning his race. (Reuters wirephoto)



Danny Harris in action in the 400m hurdles. (Reuters wirephoto)

King's credibility attacked in court

NEW YORK, July 13, (AP): Promoter Don King's credibility was attacked Wednesday in a US District Court session marked by sharp exchanges and humour.

King contends he was in the process of setting up a rematch when he called for justice after James "Buster" Douglas upset undisputed heavyweight champion Mike Tyson in Tokyo.

Douglas and manager John Johnson contend King was trying to get the result reversed.

If he was setting up a rematch, why did he deny it at a Feb 13 news conference in New York, King was asked. "That was something I told the press," King said.

"You lied to the press," said Stanley Hunterton, attorney for Douglas and Johnson, who have sued King for breach of contract in federal court at Nevada.

"Yes," replied King, who is suing Douglas and Johnson for breach of contract and the Mirage Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas for tortious interference for allegedly inducing Douglas to break his promotional contract with King.

The Nevada suit has been stayed pending the outcome of the New York trial.

"On today, the 11th, you're telling the truth," Hunterton asked.

"I'm under oath," King replied.

John Sharer, attorney for the Mirage, also questioned King about not mentioning a rematch at the New York news conference.

During the cross-examination, King took every opportunity to take verbal shots at Steve Wynn, the owner of the Mirage, who signed Douglas for two fights for a total of \$60 million if the new champion can get out of his agreement with King.

The strongest card played by the defense so far appears to be an audio tape of a news conference about an hour after Douglas' 10th-round knockout of Tyson.

King says he protested a long count after Douglas was knocked down in the eighth round, but that he made no protest after the fight and only wanted to create controversy to force a rematch.

On the tape, King is heard to say, "there's an injustice here if it holds that Mike Tyson is knocked out."

King said he meant that it would be an injustice if there was no rematch.

Gooch's 144 fails to stop Hampshire

LONDON, July 13, (Reuters): England cricket captain Graham Gooch hit a magnificent 144 for his county Essex but still finished on the losing side on Wednesday as Hampshire produced a record-breaking batting performance to win a place in the Nat-West Trophy quarterfinals.

Gooch's century, his 11th of the summer, helped Essex to a mammoth total of 307 for six off their allotted 60 overs but Hampshire, held together by opener Chris Smith who made 106, reached the final ball with the scores tied. Skipper Mark Nicholas blocked the final delivery and his side were declared winners by virtue of losing fewer wickets.

It was the highest total made by a side batting second and winning since the 60-overs competition began in 1963.

Yorkshire openers Martyn Moxon and Ashley Metcalfe shared a competition-best first-wicket stand of 242 as they steered Yorkshire to a 10-wicket success over holders Warwickshire.

Middlesex batsmen Keith Brown and Mark Ramprakash also hit a century apiece to outpace London neighbours Surrey. Chasing Surrey's 288 for eight, Middlesex edged home with two balls to spare.

Lancashire squeezed to a three-wicket win over Derbyshire with four balls to spare while England's Mike Atherton making 55. Derbyshire totalled 241 despite losing their last five wickets for just two runs.



Graham Gooch



Chris Smith



Martin Weston

Results

Worcestershire opener Martin Weston bravely steered Worcestershire to a runaway seven-wicket win over Somerset, making 98 despite being struck a painful blow under the heart midway through his innings.

Fellow opener Tim Curtis hit 112 as Worcestershire cruised past their target of 284 with 16 balls to spare.

West Indian pacemen Courtney Walsh took six for 21 to bowl Gloucestershire to a six-wicket win over Kent, while a hard-hitting 101 from in-form all-rounder David Capel gave Northamptonshire a 24-run win over Nottinghamshire.

Viv Richards steered Glamorgan to a 34-run victory over Sussex with an unbeaten 74 from just 50 balls.

At Bristol: Gloucestershire beat Kent by six wickets. Kent 181 for nine innings closed (T. Ward 47, C. Walsh six for 21). Gloucestershire 182 for four in 48.3 overs (P. Bainbridge 56 not out, A. Wright 45).

At Derbyshire: Lancashire beat Derbyshire by three wickets. Derbyshire 241 in 56.5 overs (J. Morris 74, K. Barnett 59; Wasim Akram four for 34). Lancashire 242 for seven in 59.2 overs (M. Atherton 55, G. Mendis 42; D. Malcolm three for 54).

At Headingly: Yorkshire beat Warwickshire by 10 wickets. Warwickshire 241 for nine closed (Asif Din 58, T. Moody 51; P. Carrick three for 26). Yorkshire 242 for no wicket in 55 overs (A. Metcalfe 127 not out, M. Moxon 107 not out).

At Taunton: Worcestershire beat Somerset by seven wickets. Somerset 283 for five innings closed (C. Tavaré 99 not out, A. Hayhurst 46, J. Cook 45). Worcestershire 284 three in 57.2 overs (T. Curtis 112, M. Weston 98, D.D. Oliveira 51 not out).

At Cardiff: Glamorgan beat Sussex by 34 runs. Glamorgan 283 for five innings closed (V. Richards 74 not out, H. Morris 58). Sussex 249 in 55.5 overs (A. Wells 85, P. Parker 83, N. Latham 47; S. Watkins three for 18).

At Northampton: Northamptonshire beat Nottinghamshire by 24 runs. Northamptonshire 274 for six innings closed (D. Capel 101, A. Lamb 61). Nottinghamshire 250 in 57.1 overs (T. Robinson 61, D. Randall 56, P. Johnson 48).

Stewart sets sights on British Open crown



Stewart: seeks another major title

GLENEAGLES, Scotland, July 13, (Reuters): Flamboyant American Payne Stewart has his sights firmly set on winning the British Open golf title at St Andrews next week.

Already the holder of the US PGA title, the 33-year-old Stewart, well-known for his fashionable appearance, hopes to put a second major feather in his colourful cap.

"Winning the PGA was special because it was my first major title. But winning the British Open would be special, too," Stewart said on Wednesday.

Playing "It is the original major in the original home of golf."

To boost his chances, Stewart is playing in this week's Scottish Open at Gleneagles, a step he has taken before. He opened with a one-under-par 70 on a day of strong winds after taking a double bogey six at the third hole.

"I've really enjoyed doing this. It gives you a feel for the type of golf you have to play in Scotland."

"I don't think I'd be giving myself much of a chance next week if I didn't play this week. You get over the jet-lag and get used to the time zone while

you're playing here."

Stewart played the first round on Wednesday clad in the blue and yellow colours of the Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League (NFL), whom he represents on tour.

He has outfits, all including his sporty plus fours, in the colours of all the 28 NFL teams and will wear a different one every day while he is in Scotland.

Stewart has blossomed over the past year and can arguably be called his country's top golfer since recently moving above Curtis Strange into fourth place on the world ranking list.

He has won the Heritage and Byron Nelson Classic tournaments on the Tour this year and his earnings of more than \$750,000 puts him second on the money list.

"But I'm not sure the rankings mean that much," he said. "I know they give a yardstick but I'm not certain you can really say who has been the best over the past three years."

Stewart, a member of the US Ryder Cup team that drew with Europe last year — enabling the Europeans to retain the trophy — missed the cut at the US Open

last month.

"I thought my game was good going into the event, but that's the funny thing about golf," he said.

Stewart, who lives in Orlando, Florida, said he discovered his alignment was slightly off at the Open and he has since taken steps to rectify the problem.

His knowledge of St Andrews is limited to the 1984 Open there, when he missed the cut for the final round.

Remember

"I missed out by a shot. I don't remember much about the course, but I remember the 17th hole there (the 'road hole') is the toughest hole in the world to make a birdie on."

"Playing Gleneagles should be good preparation for St Andrews," he said. "You have to hit the same kind of bump-and-run shots you will need there."

"I'm happy with my game right now. I hit a lot of good shots today."

"When this tournament finishes, I'll spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday learning about St Andrews. That should be enough. I hope."

The New Zealand team for the first Test match: Kieran Crowley, John Kirwan, Craig Innes, Terry Wright, Walter Little, Grant Fox, Graeme Bopchop, Zinzan Brooke, Mike Brewer, Ian Jones, Gary Whetton (captain), Alan Whetton, Richard Lee, Sean Fitzpatrick, Steve McDowell, Reserves: Bernie McCahill, Paul McGahan, Simon Mannix, Steve Gordon, Graham Purvis, Kevin Schuler.

Argentine Rugby Union president Carlos Tozzi (2nd right) listens while England rugby team delegation chief Gert Cooke (2nd left) speaks during a press conference in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. The English team start their tour of Argentina today. (Reuters wirephoto)



Rugby tour

Argentine Rugby Union president Carlos Tozzi (2nd right) listens while England rugby team delegation chief Gert Cooke (2nd left) speaks during a press conference in Buenos Aires on Wednesday. The English team start their tour of Argentina today. (Reuters wirephoto)

Williams sets record

MINNEAPOLIS, July 13, (AP): Schowanda Williams stepped off the plane and into the US Olympic Festival record books yesterday by running the 400-metre hurdles in 55.57 seconds.

That time broke the meet's record of 55.63, posted in 1987 by Latanya Sheffield of El Cajon, California.

The feat was even more remarkable because Williams arrived in Minneapolis only 31-2 hours before her race.

"Everything was smooth except I was a little tired at the end because I just got here," said Williams, a former Louisiana state runner who won the 1988 NCAA and the Athletics Congress championships in her event.

In medal games in baseball, the East won the bronze medal with a 7-3 victory over the South, behind three hits and four RBIs from Scott Barthelemy of Phelps, New York.

In women's 3-metre diving preliminaries, Krista Wilson of Laguna Hills, California, moved past 1988 Olympian Wendy Lucero in the seventh round to win.

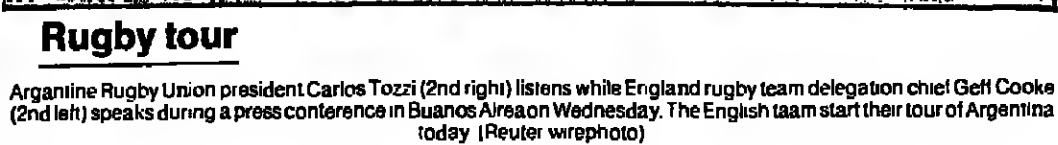
Wilson is one of the nation's hottest 3-metre divers, coming off victories in the US Championships and NCAA diving meet. But it was her first preliminary-round victory.

"In the finals, divers go in the reverse order of finish and I think that helps," Wilson said. "I've never been in a position where I've gotten to go last before."

Lucero, the 1987 and 1989 festival champion from Aurora, Colorado, led until the seventh round, finishing with 453.90 points to Wilson's 463.59.

The top 12 divers advanced to tomorrow's finals.

Men's gymnastics was scheduled to resume last night with the all-around and team competition. Men's preliminary 3-metre diving also was scheduled.



Indian batsmen hammer Minor Counties

TROWBRIDGE, England, July 13. (Reuters) Captain Mohammed Azharuddin and all-rounder Ravi Shastri hit rapid centuries as India hammered the Minor Counties bowlers into submission on the second day of their three-day fixture yesterday.

Azharuddin and Shastri both flourished in perfect batting conditions, each

making 105 as India raced to 512 for six declared in reply to the Minor Counties' first innings total of 293 for nine declared.

Kapil Dev hit four sixes in a cavalier 47 and there were half-centuries for Sachin Tendulkar and Workeri Raman as all the Indian batsmen exposed the limitations of their part-time opponents.

Scoreboard	
MINOR COUNTIES first innings 293 for nine declared (G Brown 103, M Roberts 85, A Kumble 61 for 49)	N. Mongia not out 43
INDIA first innings (overnight 24-0)	V. Raju not out 33
R. Shastri b Evans 105	Extras (lb-5 lb-4 w-3 nb-7) 19
W. Raman c Greensword b Arnold 65	Total (for six wickets declared) 512
S. Manjrekar run out 40	Fall of wickets: 1-102 2-201 3-238 4-312 5-426 6-449
M. Azharuddin c Arnold b Taylor 105	Did not bat: S. Sharma, A. Wassen, A. Kumble
Kapil Dev c Arnold b Evans 47	Bowling: Taylor 23-87-1, Arnold 28-6-113-1, Evans 28-1-147-2, Thomas 15-1-65-0, Greensword 19-6-52-0, Brown 9-1-39-1.
S. Tendulkar lbw b Brown 65	

SPORTS BRIEFS

Maradona sued

BUENOS AIRES, July 13. (UPI) Retired Argentine soccer player Jose Francisco Sanfilippo Wednesday sued the national team's World Cup captain Diego Maradona for libel in an apparent dispute over who was the greatest player of all times. "This boy (Maradona) called me a traitor because I said that Pele (the former Brazilian superstar) was a more rounded player than he was," Sanfilippo said after leaving the courthouse where he filed his complaint, in which he asked six months imprisonment for the Argentine player and a ban on his leaving the country.

Minnesota's bid

ST PAUL, Minnesota, July 13. (AP) Gov. Rudy Perpich says he has asked Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to support the state of Minnesota's bid to host the Goodwill Games in 1998.

Detroit coach

DETROIT, July 13. (AP) Detroit Red Wings coach Jacques Demers was to be fired today and will be replaced by former Washington Capitals coach Bryan Murray, according to a published report.

NHL defenseman

ST LOUIS, Missouri, July 13. (AP) The St. Louis Blues signed free-agent Scott Stevens today, ending a long search for a defenseman to replace the Washington Capitals' Scott Stevens.

Title fight

PERUGIA, Italy, July 13. (AP) Italy's Gianfranco Rosi will put his IBF junior middleweight title at stake against US challenger Darren van Home on July 21. Italian matchmaker Rocco Signorile announced today. The title fight will be held in the Sports Palace of Marino, near Rome.

Hockey star

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania, July 13. (Reuters) Pittsburgh Penguins ice hockey star Mario Lemieux underwent successful surgery on his back on Wednesday and should be ready to play in the opening game of the season, doctors reported.

Draft pick

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey, July 13. (AP) Top NBA draft pick Derrick Coleman will play for New Jersey provided the Nets offer him a good contract and a foreign team doesn't make him an offer too good to refuse, his attorney said Wednesday.

Fifth defense

LAS VEGAS, July 13. (AP) Michael Nunn will make the fifth defense of his IBF middleweight title this fall against former champion Donald Curry in Paris, promoter Bob Arum said Wednesday. The fight, scheduled for Oct. 18, is a mandatory defense by Nunn against Curry, the International Boxing Federation's top-ranked contender.

Record holder

LINZ, Austria, July 13. (UPI) Roger Kingdom, world record holder over 100m hurdles will compete at the third annual "Gigli" international track and field meeting August 22, organizers confirmed Wednesday. Kingdom joined Javier Sotomayor, Renato Nehemiah and Anna Fidelina Quiroz as confirmed entries. A "middle range" sports car has been offered to the athletes as a reward for incentive.

'Snow leopard'

VIENNA, July 13. (UPI) Austria's foremost mountain climber-adventurer Thomas Bubendorfer aims to be a "snow leopard" by the end of the summer, he announced Wednesday. Gaining the title means climbing five mountains over 7,000 metres and be back in one piece before the fall.

German coach

KITZBUHEL, Austria, July 13. (UPI) Franz Beckenbauer, coach of the 1990 World Cup winner West Germany, returned to his residence here in central Austria Wednesday and plans to address his attention to a smaller white bull in the aftermath of the World Cup. The man who led West Germany to victory both as captain in 1974 and as coach, Sunday will relax with his wife Sybille at a mountain "Alm," retreat and play a little golf.

\$1 million transfer

LONDON, July 13. (UPI) English First Division soccer club Manchester City yesterday completed the \$1 million transfer of highly-rated goalkeeper Tony Cotton from Second Division club Watford. The 29-year-old played under England manager-elect Graham Taylor during the latter's time in charge at Watford, and he feels that the move to Manchester City may lead to call up to the English national squad.

Zambia accused

HARARE, Zimbabwe, July 13. (AP) Zimbabwe accused Zambia of cheating in a soccer tournament and asked Africa's top soccer body to make a ruling on the dispute. Soccer officials said today. Zimbabwe Football Association chairman Nelson Chirwa said members of under-17 Zambian squad were believed to have faked their ages.

Filippini stuns Wilander

Navratilova bad influence: Court

BASTAD, Sweden, July 13. (Agencies) Mats Wilander's tennis comeback suffered a setback yesterday when he was beaten by Marcelo Filippini of Uruguay 6-2 3-6 7-6 (7-4) in the second round of the Swedish Open.

Filippini took the tiebreaker after several unforced errors by Wilander, who was ranked No. 1 in the world before slipping and then taking a five-month break.

"I got awfully tired toward the end of the match," Wilander

said. "I missed a lot of easy shots."

Filippini is a clay court specialist who won his first singles title here in 1988. The victory moved him into the quarterfinals, where he will face Aki Rahunen of Finland.

Rahunen, seeded No. 8 and one of the most improved players on the tour last year, earlier beat Nicklas Kulti 6-4, 6-0.

The 25-year-old Wilander, whose seven Grand Slam titles in

the 1980s were only matched by Ivan Lendl, was ranked No. 1 in the world for a few months after winning the US Open in 1988. He also captured the Australian and French Open titles that year.

With Wilander's departure, the tournament has lost its No. 1 and 2 seeds. Top-seed Guillermo Perez Roldan of Argentina was upset Wednesday by Swede Lars Jonsson in three sets.

In other second-round matches, No. 4 seed Richard Fromberg of Australia beat Nicklas Utgren of Sweden 6-7, 7-6, 6-3. Fromberg will play Diego Perez of Uruguay in the quarterfinals. Perez scored an easy 6-2 6-3 victory over Magnus Nilsson of Sweden in the only other second-round match yesterday.

In the women's singles, Cilla Barts of Switzerland upset former champion and No. 2 seed Catarina Lindqvist of Sweden 3-6, 6-2 6-4 to reach today's quarterfinals.

Also advancing were Sabine Hack of West Germany, a 6-3 6-3 winner over Nanne Dahlman of Finland, and Sandra Dopfer of Austria, who routed Cecilia Dahlman of Sweden 6-1, 6-1.

Former tennis great Margaret Court attacked Wimbledon champion Martina Navratilova for her sexual preference Wednesday and said young tennis players are being led into homosexuality by senior stars.

Court, 47, winner of 25 Grand Slam titles, including three Wimbledon crowns, said on a Perth radio station that Navratilova's admitted bisexuality was a poor example for young players.

"Navratilova is one of the world's greatest exponents of tennis, but her high profile ensured many teenage players knew about her private life," Court said. "It is very sad for children to be exposed to (homosexuality)."

Court, a devout Christian, said some players had been led into homosexuality by other senior players. She said she believed Navratilova was influenced into a gay lifestyle during her early years on the circuit.

Court said many players were accompanied to tournaments by their families in an attempt to keep them away from lesbians in world tennis.

"If I had a daughter on the circuit I'd want to be there," she said.

Court refused to name any players she knew to be lesbians. Jakob Hlasek of Switzerland upset second-seeded American Jay Berger 6-2 6-1 yesterday in the first round of the Gunze world tennis tournament.

Hlasek, firing five aces and hitting 66.8 per cent of his first serves, needed just 67 minutes to beat Berger, the world's 10th-ranked player, on the artificial court of the Osaka Prefectural Gym in western Japan.

Berger double faulted six times and put in just 50.7 per cent of his first serves.

In a women's singles first round match, Ann Grossman of the United States, taking advantage of Spaniard Conchita Martinez's nine double faults, beat the world's 10th-ranked woman player 6-0, 6-4.



Wilander leaves the court after his defeat.

Capriati gets star treatment

CONWAY, New Hampshire, July 13. (AP) It was a greeting fit for a movie star: adoring fans, autograph seekers, plenty of reporters and even Gov. Judd Gregg. But the recipient of all the adulation was a 14-year-old who says she's just a normal teenager.

Jennifer Capriati, a professional for all of five months but already ranked 13th in the world, got the star treatment yesterday, when she arrived in New Hampshire for the Mount Cranmore International Women's Tennis Championships. It's her first appearance since her fourth-round loss at Wimbledon two weeks ago.

"I took a couple of days off. I just really relaxed," she said.

Capriati, the youngest player to win a women's match at Wimbledon, called the sport's most prestigious tournament, "a lot of fun."

"I thought it was especially cool, because I got to

play on centre court, and I even had to curtsy to the queen, er, princess," she said.

Capriati, who was eliminated by top-ranked Steffi Graf in straight sets on centre court, called the match the highlight of her five-month professional career.

But, she said the match also showed her that she's still a step below the world's top players, even though many observers, including Evert, have ranked her alongside Graf, Martina Navratilova and Monica Seles.

"I've played Steffi, Monica, Gabby (Gabriela Sabatini) and Martina, and I haven't really come close to beating them," she said. "I think I'm just a level below them."

She said she must improve her serve and improve her play at the net to reach the top.

Two-way tie

DULUTH, Georgia, July 13. (AP) Jane Geddes and Patty Sheehan posted the best first-round scores in US Women's Open history to share the lead, with 6-under-par 66 on a stormy yesterday.

The two held a two-shot lead over Nancy Lopez, who is looking to include this national title among her 42 career victories.

Play on the 6,298-yard River-side course of the Atlanta Athletic Club was suspended twice by rain and lightning. Thirty golfers were still on the course when play was suspended at 2:40 GMT.

LeMond ready to move out in Tour de France

VILLARD DE LANS, France, July 13. (AP) Only a day off in the Tour de France today halted defending champion Greg LeMond's steady rise toward the overall lead.

LeMond appears ready to move out, not having to worry about his teammate Ronan Pensec any more.

Pensec, who belongs to the same French team as LeMond, held the yellow jersey of the leader on Wednesday and yesterday. Team strategy, and cycling etiquette, required LeMond to ride defensively and protect Pensec.

LeMond did what was asked of him on Wednesday when he didn't mount an attack up the L'alpe d'Huez climb that could have distanced him from Pensec — as well as others.

But things changed yesterday. Pensec lost the lead when he came in just 49th in the 20-mile (32-kilometre) individual time trial from Fontaine to Villard de Lans, a pair of small cities just outside Grenoble.

Claudio Chiappucci of Italy moved into the lead overall with an eight-place clocking. LeMond slipped from third to fourth overall, but gained 1.37 on the lead.

Eric Breukink of the Netherlands won the stage, 56 seconds ahead of LeMond in fifth. Pedro Delgado was second behind Breukink, about 26 seconds ahead of LeMond.

Breukink moved about 30 seconds ahead of LeMond overall and slipped into third. But LeMond is now just 7.27



Chiappucci in action during the 12th stage. (Reuters wirephoto)

behind Chiappucci and has a solid chance to defend his title.

"The race is far from over," LeMond said. "There are still another 10 days to go. Seven minutes are easily lost in the mountains."

LeMond understands team tactics. In 1985, he was on the same team as Bernard Hinault, who was going for his fifth Tour de France title. LeMond had an opportunity to go ahead in that race but was held under check by



A mechanic works on LeMond's bicycle. (Reuters wirephoto)

team orders.

Holding back in Wednesday's 11th stage for Pensec's sake, he permitted others to also stay close.

"My only regret on Wednesday is that I could have had more time on Delgado because he was doing most of the work. And I could have had more time on Breukink and Chiappucci," LeMond said.

"That's the way it goes, but

we're going to race a bit differently from now on."

LeMond doesn't appear concerned about the deficit and the others ahead of him.

"I feel good. Chiappucci rode away above his level and I think (Eric) Breukink had an exceptional result," he said.

The race now enters its final week, with the 13th stage scheduled for tomorrow.

Patrese celebrates 200th race

Prost chases GP hat-trick

SILVERSTONE, England, July 13. (Reuters) World champion Alain Prost will be chasing his third successive victory and Italian Riccardo Patrese will celebrate his 200th Formula One motor race in this weekend's British Grand Prix.

Frenchman Prost, in his first season with Ferrari, won in Mexico three weeks ago and at the French Grand Prix last Sunday.

Another win would almost certainly put him on top of the drivers' championship standing at the halfway point in the season.

Test

"There is a long way to go and it is too early to talk about the title," said Prost after his French win. "But we are optimistic about Silverstone. Ferrari tested very well there a few weeks ago and we feel we have a good chance in the race."

Patrese, in his 14th year in Grand Prix racing, travels to Silverstone hoping to maintain his record of never having failed to qualify for a race and also in pursuit of the fourth victory of his long career.

"But, like Prost, his hopes of a major celebration on Sunday night are likely to be seriously threatened by the challenge from the McLaren and Benetton teams as the leading contenders continue to improve their performances in a very open season."

"I will treat the race just like any other," said Patrese. "It will be the same for me as if it was my 199th or my 201st. I just want to keep on enjoying my racing and do a good job for the team."

Defeats

McLaren, with championship leader Ayrton Senna of Brazil and his Austrian team-mate Gerhard Berger still smarting from two successive defeats by Prost, will be out to redress the balance.

Senna, however, knows it will be tough as this year's battle for honours has been more open and competitive than any for years.

He said: "I'm looking forward to England. I think my car will run well there, but it's going to be



Mansell uses tape to cover up cigarette advertising on his helmet before practice. The advertising of cigarettes is banned on British TV. (Reuters wirephoto)

tough and any one of a number of teams could win the race."

Silverstone, a high-speed circuit set in the rural midlands of England, is one of the fastest tracks in the world with average speeds of more than 250kph set by the quickest cars.

But this year — 40 years after hosting the first World Championship Grand Prix in 1950 — will be the last that Silverstone produces such fast speeds as the present circuit is to be heavily modified and relaid.

Instead of the fast, flat curves,

new sections with dips and chicanes are to be built, slowing down the cars and dramatically reducing the average speed.

Meanwhile, Senna took the provisional pole today after the first practice session. Berger was the second fastest while Nigel Mansell, Prost's teammate on the Ferrari team was the third quickest.

Prost finished the day sixth fastest behind Riccardo Patrese of Italy in a Williams Renault and Thierry Boutsen, also in a Williams Renault.

'94 World Cup site not being changed

HAMBURG, West Germany, July 13. (AP) A West German newspaper report that the United States will abdicate the 1994 World Cup soccer tournament to Germany has "no basis in fact," the US organising committee said.

Scott Letellier, president of the World Cup '94 organising committee, said yesterday that no one in any official capacity has discussed moving the soccer championships to Germany.

Letellier said he spoke with FIFA and German Soccer Federation officials in Rome on Tuesday to discuss logistics for the '94 tournament and no mention of a move was made.

Letellier also pointed out that similar rumours circulated in Europe before the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

"In late '82 and even '83 we were hearing stories that they were going to move Olympic soccer to West Germany," Letellier said. "Germany has become a rumour haven for soccer tournaments."

Former West German soccer player Paul Breitner wrote in his Wednesday column that the United States will back out of its commitment to hold the 1994 World Cup tournament because Americans do not care about the sport.

The mass-circulation Bild newspaper also speculated that the tournament will "most probably" be shifted to Germany.

Breitner said two of the major US sponsors are backing out because the domestic interest is well below the international level. John Polis, a spokesman for the US Soccer Federation, also denied the newspaper account.

"What we hear are merely rumours," Polis said. "It started with a column written by a former West German player, which was pure speculation. There is no truth to it, and it is a bit annoying."

Breitner said low television ratings during the just-finished World Cup convinced American sponsors that the tournament will not be a success in the United States.

"One of the men in charge of the organising committee disclosed it," the front-page report said. "The Americans are backing out, because king football (soccer) is still not beloved in the United States."

While admitting that the poor quality of this year's final game would make the tournament less attractive to networks and sponsors, Letellier said that there has been no talk of pulling out.

"Four networks, ABC, CBS, TNT, and also ESPN, have expressed interest in bidding on the games. The only one that has not is NBC," he said.